

MISSOURI STUDENT SURVEY 2010

Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse



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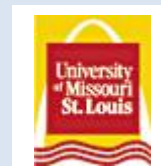


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the data from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), national trends in adolescent substance use are mixed. Use of cigarettes and alcohol, the two most commonly used drugs among adolescents, has declined significantly since 2002. In addition, use of some major illicit drugs (including cocaine, hallucinogens and LSD) has declined. However, the use of marijuana, methamphetamines and ecstasy are on the rise. Use of non-medical prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs are also increasing (Office of Applied Studies, (2009)

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k9NSDUH/2k9Results.htm>).

As evidenced above, many school-aged youth continue to engage in behaviors that put them at risk for injury, disease, and loss of life. Nationwide, the majority of deaths among those ages 10-24 are attributed to only four causes: motor vehicle crashes (31%), homicide (15%), suicide (11%), and other unintentional injuries (14%) (CDC, 2009; http://www.cdc.gov/NCHS/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_19.pdf). In 2009, 15% of drivers ages 16-20 involved in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content of 0.08 g/dl or higher (NHTSA, 2009). Alcohol abuse can, moreover, result in family dysfunction, job loss, and overall loss of quality of life. Tobacco use, which for most users begins in adolescence, is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, and every year causes more than 443,000 deaths (CDC, 2010). Five million people 18 years old and younger will die prematurely of tobacco related disease if current patterns of smoking continue (CDC, 2006). Illicit drug use resulted in over 993,000 ER visits in 2009, a number which is on the rise (DAWN, 2009; <https://dawninfo.samhsa.gov/default.asp>).

The Missouri Student Survey

Every even numbered year since 2000, the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) has conducted the Missouri Student Survey (MSS) to monitor the substance use and related behaviors of adolescent youth in Missouri. All public middle and high schools in Missouri are asked to participate by surveying students in ninth grade and one other grade between 6th and 12th grade. The 2010 survey gathered information on 139,086 youth. After sample weighting and data cleaning, 129,901 participant surveys were analyzed and are reported here. The charts below highlight this year's key findings. Missouri is slightly higher in tobacco and alcohol use while marijuana is similar to the national average and inhalants are lower. According to NSDUH data, this is a pattern that historically has remained the same, although Missouri is making progress in decreasing alcohol, cigarette and marijuana use in the 12 and older population. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) indicates that current use of inhalants and cocaine in Missouri are on the decline among 9th-12th graders in the last 30 days. The YRBS data also shows a decrease in Missouri youth reporting lifetime methamphetamine or steroid use.

Table 1 Percentage of Substance Users in Missouri and the United States

	Missouri ¹		United States ²	
	Lifetime	30-day	Lifetime	30-day
Cigarettes	26.6%	13.7%	22.2%	8.9%
Chewing Tobacco	11.4%	6.1%	7.6%	2.3%
Cigars	13.0%	6.3%	12.4%	4.0%
Alcohol	42.9%	19.8%	38.1%	14.7%
Marijuana	17.7%	9.4%	17.0%	7.3%
Inhalants	6.5%	3.0%	9.2%	1.0%
Prescription Drugs	11.1%	6.7%	n/a	n/a
Over-the-Counter Medications	7.7%	4.8%	n/a	n/a
Cocaine	1.6%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heroin	0.6%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hallucinogens	3.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Methamphetamine	0.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Club Drugs	2.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Steroids	1.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), 6th – 12th grade, n = 129,901, average age = 14.47

² National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2009), 12-17 years of age, n = 24,625, average age not yet available

Comparisons between this report and reports from prior years should NOT be made at this point due to changes in methodology. A trend report is forthcoming which will allow comparisons between years.

Also, NSDUH data has methodological differences from the Missouri Student Survey which are known to impact use rates; any comparisons should be done with caution.

Table 2 Engagement in Problem Behaviors

Problem Behaviors	
	% Who Engaged in Behavior One or More Times
Been in physical fight in the past year	24.9%
Been in a fight where you were hurt & had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?	4.3%
Been threatened by or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife or club in the past year	9.7%
Taken a weapon to school	4.3%
Been suspended from school in the past year	8.8%
Spread mean rumors or lies about others at school	32.9%
Made fun of other people	72.1%
Substance Use Related Behaviors	
Been in car with someone who is driving and drinking	22.3%
Drove a car while drinking	15.8%
Smoked cigarettes on school property	28.5%
Drank alcohol on school property	9.3%
Smoked marijuana on school property	21.0%
Suicidal Ideation	
Considered suicide in past 12 months	12.6%
Planned suicide in past 12 months	9.3%
Attempted suicide in past 12 months	5.5%
Attempted suicide in the past 12 months, resulting in injury	2.1%
School Safety	
Felt safe at school (agree or strongly agree)	84.0%
Felt safe going to or from school (agree or strongly agree)	88.2%
Didn't go to school because felt unsafe	4.5%

- The average age of youth was 14.47, the majority were white. Males and females were approximately equally represented. Most youth had parents with a high school degree or higher. Most youth surveyed reported they were making at least passing grades.
- Over a quarter of the youth surveyed reported skipping at least one day of school in the past month. However, of those students who did skip school, the majority reported skipping only 1 or 2 days. Close to 30% of the youth surveyed reported that they had been sent to the office for disciplinary reasons at least once in the past 3 months. Almost a quarter reported in school suspension or detention and 8.8% reported that they had at least one out of school suspension. Most of the students surveyed reported feeling safe both at school and going to and from school.
- Alcohol had the highest use rate reported of the drugs surveyed, followed by cigarettes and marijuana. Alcohol, cigarette, chewing tobacco and inhalant use was higher in Missouri than nationally. The recently added chewing tobacco, cigars and prescription drugs all exceeded 10% while illegal drug use other than marijuana was 3% or less. The average age of first use was lowest for inhalants (11.95) and highest for marijuana (13.53). Of those youth who reported drinking in the last 30 days, 58.1% of them reported at least one episode of binge drinking.
- Almost *one-third* of cigarette smokers (29%) were smoking on school property while 9.3% of past month alcohol users drank on school property at least once. A fairly high percentage (21%) of past month users smoked marijuana on school property in the past 30 days.
- The majority of youth surveyed had no friends who used cigarettes, marijuana or other illegal drugs. However, a majority of youth did have at least one friend who drank alcohol. If a youth did have one friend who used cigarettes, alcohol or marijuana, they were likely to have multiple friends who were using.
- Most youth thought that all drugs posed at least a moderate risk and that it was very wrong to use cigarettes, marijuana and other illegal drugs. Alcohol and marijuana were perceived to be less harmful while alcohol was seen as being less wrong. Females perceived all drugs to be riskier than males.
- The majority of youth perceived that cigarettes and alcohol were either “very easy” or “sort of easy” to obtain and most youth did not believe that the police would catch a substance user in their neighborhood. Marijuana and other illegal drugs were perceived as more difficult to obtain, but a relatively large portion of youth still believed that they were easy to get.
- Older youth were more likely to report that their friends use, that substances are less risky to use and that drug use is wrong. They were also more likely to perceive substances as easy to obtain.
- Youth were asked to report the number of times in the past three months they either bullied others or were bullied by another student. The majority of students reported that they had not

spread mean rumors or lies at school nor had they embarrassed or hurt another student either through the internet or through text messaging. However, over 70% of youth reported making fun of other people, and around 10% reported doing this 40 or more times. One quarter of the students surveyed (25.0%) reported that they had been bullied on school property. Of the youth who reported being bullied, most reported being made fun of. This was followed by reporting having rumors / lies spread about them at school.

- The majority of youth did not report rebellious and defiant attitudes. However, almost half of the youth strongly agreed or agreed that fighting back was acceptable if one was provoked. Stealing was considered to be the least acceptable action. Males were *much* more likely to agree that beating someone else is acceptable if the other person started the fight.
- Most students reported not having been in a physical fight in the last year. Almost all youth reported they were not injured in a physical fight nor were they threatened with a weapon while on school property. For those who did engage in fighting, it was most likely to be a one-time incident. Almost 15% of youth reported that they had carried a weapon in the past 30 days, but almost no youth reported carrying a weapon at school.
- The highest percentage of youth reported that it would be very hard to get a gun; however, over a third think it would be easy or very easy. Almost half of all youth did not think that a youth carrying a gun in their neighborhood would be caught by the police. While most youth did not have a friend who carried a gun (not including use for hunting or sport), there were still more than 10% who did report one or more friends carrying a gun.
- The majority of youth surveyed reported at least sometimes feeling sad, being in a bad mood, sleeping more or less than usual and having difficulty focusing on school work. Females consistently reported a higher percentage of depressive symptoms than males.
- A total of 12.6 % of youth surveyed reported that they considered suicide in the last year, 9.3% made a plan to commit suicide, 5.5% attempted suicide and 2.1% of all youth surveyed had attempts that resulted in injury (approximately one fourth of those who attempted were injured). Of those who attempted, the largest percentage did so once. The percentage of youth who had suicidal ideation or attempted suicide peaks at ages 15-16 and then starts to decrease.

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

Background

According to data from the 2009 report of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH; <http://oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k9NSDUH/2k9ResultsP.pdf>), the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs among 12-17 year old youth has remained constant between the 2008 and 2009 survey administrations. While, over a seven year time period, the use of cigarettes and alcohol among this age group have declined nationwide, the rates of illicit drug use, show a different trend. The decrease of use rates of marijuana, for example, was significant between 2002 (8.2%) and 2008 (6.7%). In 2009, use of marijuana among youths in this age group increased with 7.3% reporting having used.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS; <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5905.pdf>) is a national survey that measures key preventable adolescent health-risk behaviors that lead to morbidity and mortality. Health-risk behaviors assessed include drinking and driving, use of weapons, physical fighting, and bullying. In addition, the YRBSS measures youths' feelings of safety, sadness and hopelessness, and suicidal ideation. National data from 2009, show that among youth in grades 9 – 12, 28.3% rode in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking alcohol and 9.7% drove a vehicle after they had been drinking themselves (within the past 30 days). With respect to weapons and fighting, 17.5% of youth reporting having carried a weapon in the past 30 days; 31.5% reporting having been in a physical fight in the past year (35.0% in 2007); and 19.9% reporting having been bullied in the past year. Other important data from the 2009 survey show that, in the 30 days prior to its administration, 5.0% of youth had skipped school because they felt unsafe and feelings of sadness and hopelessness were reported by 26.1% of 9th – 12th graders. 13.8% considered attempting suicide; 10.9% made a plan to attempt suicide; and 6.3% attempted to do so.

While many of the substance use and other risky behaviors of youth have either remained constant or declined slightly in the recent years, many school-aged youth continue to engage in behaviors that put them at risk for injury, disease, and loss of life. The consequences of engaging in these behaviors in adolescence are too great to be ignored. According to the National Center for Health Statistics (2010; http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5924a7.htm?s_cid=mm5924a7_w), the leading cause of death among youths aged 12-19 years is unintentional injury (23.5 deaths per 100,000); 73% of which were motor vehicle related, followed by homicide (6.6 deaths per 100,000), and suicide (5.5 deaths per 100,000).

The Missouri Student Survey

In order to track trends in adolescent risk behaviors, the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) has conducted the Missouri Student Survey (MSS) every even numbered year since 2000. The 2000 MSS, conducted by Research Triangle Institute, was funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Following that administration, data were collected by the Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH). From 2004 to 2008, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which in previous years conducted its own survey, partnered with the DMH and the survey was administered by a propriety organization. Finally, in 2010, data collection moved from the propriety organization to the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) at the University of Missouri. MIMH has analyzed the data from the survey for the DMH since 2002.

This report presents the results of the 2010 Missouri Student Survey which assesses substance use and other health-risk behaviors among 6th through 12th graders attending public schools across the state. All public schools in Missouri were asked to participate by surveying 9th graders and one other grade of their choice.

The 2010 survey gathered information on a total of 139,086 youth. This was an increase from the 2006 survey (68,807 youth) and the 2008 survey (126,923 youth). Because some students did not complete the questionnaire, reported inaccurate or inconsistent information, or indicated that they were dishonest in completing the survey, the responses of 12,235 youth were discarded. After statistical weighting procedures were applied, the final adjusted sample size used in the analysis of the 2010 MSS data was 129,901. ¹ All data in this report are weighted.

¹ Because school district participation in the MSS is encouraged but not mandatory, and because districts are not required to survey students in all grade levels, the raw data set does not evenly represent the Missouri public school population as a whole. Therefore statistical adjustments to this sample were made to assure the generalizability of findings across grade levels, gender, ethnicity, and geographic location, and to allow for accurate longitudinal and national comparisons. Specifically, the MSS data set was post-stratified to 2009 census estimates for the state of Missouri (<http://mcdc2.missouri.edu/pub/webrepts/casrh09/mor2county.pdf>). The sample was weighted, adjusting the proportions to more accurately reflect the population in the states' 114 counties and the City of St. Louis. Within each of those counties, the sample was also weighted according to county population estimates of age group (10-15; 15-19), gender (male, female), race (Black, White, Other), and Hispanicity. Weighting followed NSDUH methodology, which grouped youth into the 10-14 and the 15-17 age categories and did not weight by individual grades or ages. Grade distribution thus follows the underlying distribution of the sample obtained.

Regional Distribution

All of the DMH's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA) planning regions were represented to varying degrees in the final sample (see Figure 1). The Eastern region, which includes some of the state's most populace counties, St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin, Jefferson, and St. Louis City, represented a higher percentage of the sample (33.6%) than the other regions. The Northwest region, encompassing the Kansas City area and surrounding counties, represented the next highest percentage of the sample, 25.4%. The remaining regions each accounted for 11.3% to 15.4% of the sample. The sample distributions are similar to those of the state (<http://dmh.mo.gov/ada/rpts/2010StatusReport.htm>)

Figure 1 Regional Distribution of 2010 MSS Sample and State

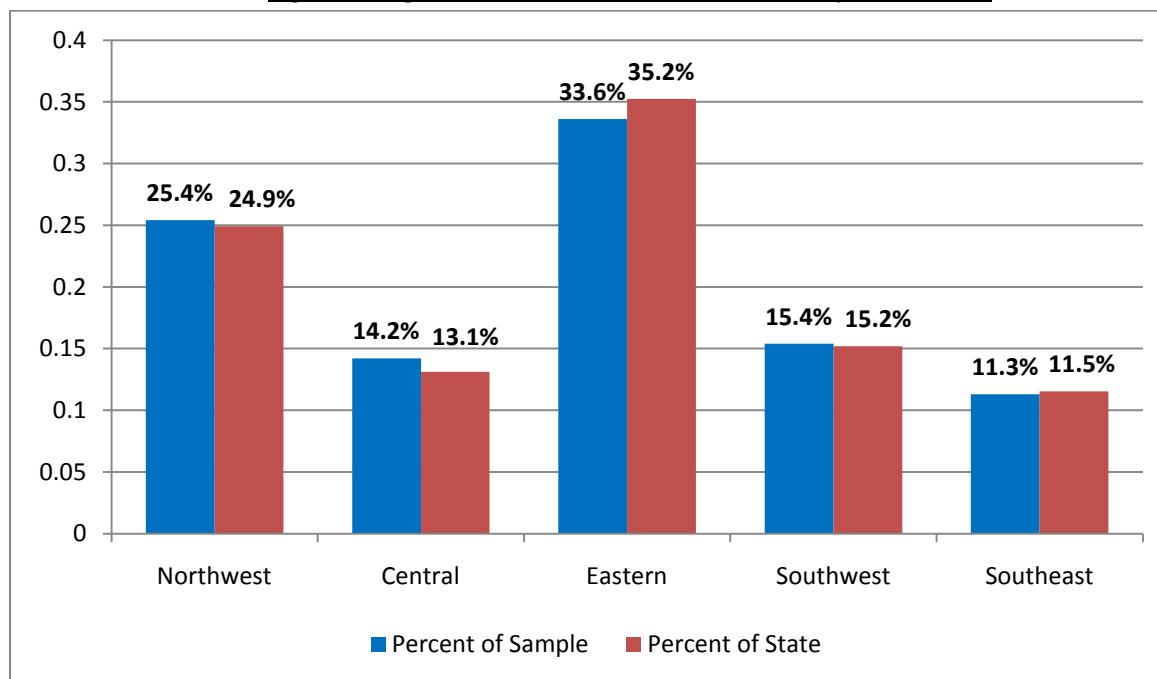
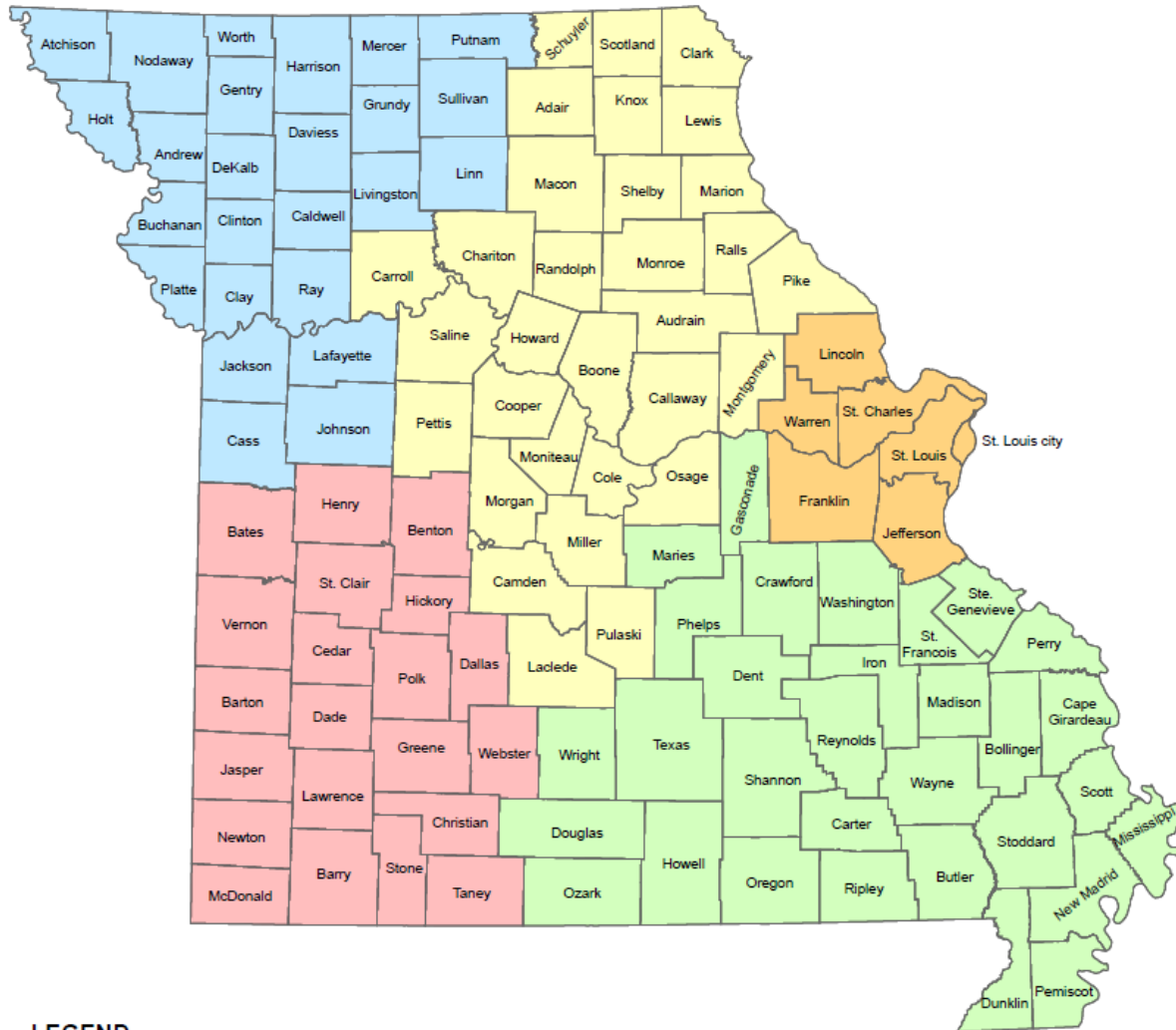


Figure 2 Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Regional Designations



LEGEND

- NORTHWEST PLANNING REGION
- CENTRAL PLANNING REGION
- EASTERN PLANNING REGION
- SOUTHWEST PLANNING REGION
- SOUTHEAST PLANNING REGION

Participant Age and Grade

Participating schools were asked to survey their 9th grade students and one other grade of their choosing. The majority of the 2010 MSS sample was between the ages of 12 and 16. The participants were 14.47 years of age on average. Just over 46% of the sample was represented by youth aged 10-14; 53.6% were 15-19 years of age, comparable to 47.0% and 53.0% in the Missouri population, respectively.

Table 3 Grade Level of 2010 MSS Sample

	Number in Each Grade (N)	Percentage of Sample
6 th	14,914	11.5%
7 th	16,360	12.7%
8 th	19,300	14.9%
9 th	42,327	32.7%
10 th	17,731	13.7%
11 th	12,623	9.8%
12 th	6,042	4.7%

Participant Race and Ethnicity

The majority of the sample was White (85.6%), and 11.8% were Black or African-American. These percentages are similar to the state of Missouri's estimated race/ethnicity population distributions (84.9% White and 11.5% Black).

Table 4 Race / Ethnicity Distribution of 2010 MSS Sample

Race	
White/Caucasian	85.6%
Black/African-American	11.8%
Asian	1.7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.7%
Native American/Alaskan Native	3.2%
Other (not otherwise specified)	3.5%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	3.1%

Participant Gender

The sample was evenly represented by males (48.3%) and females (51.7%), again similar to the state's gender distribution (48.9% males and 51.1% females).

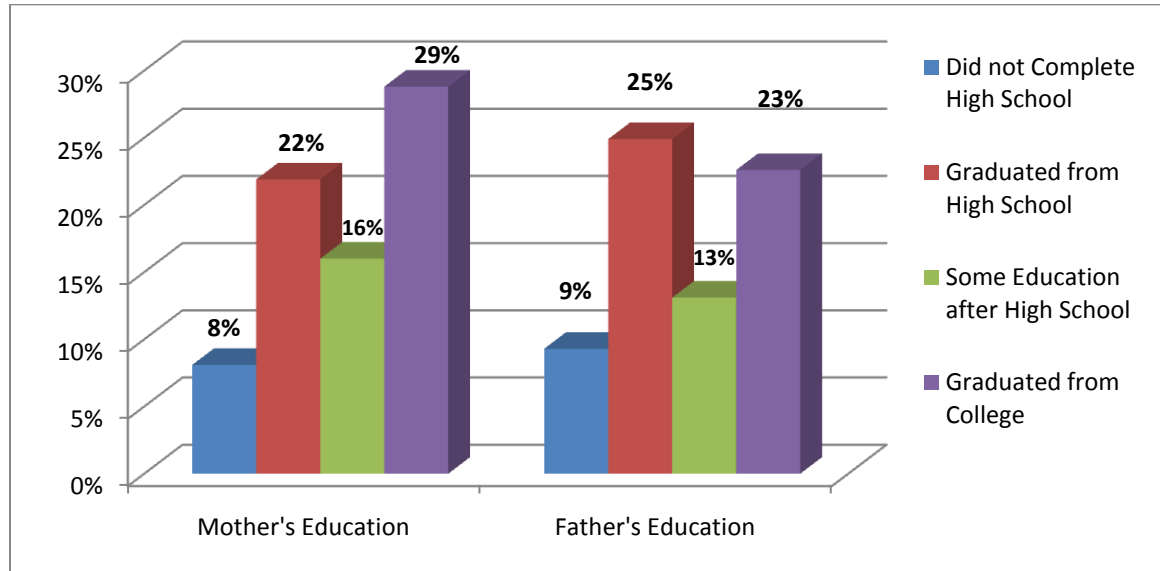
Table 5 Gender Distribution of 2010 MSS Sample

Male	48.3%
Female	51.7%

Parent's education

Most participants' parents graduated from high school at the minimum. A slightly higher percentage of mothers completed a college education than did fathers.

Figure 3 Approximate Educational Level Attained by Parents: 2010 MSS Sample



CHAPTER 2 – ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, & OTHER DRUGS

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has identified key indicators, known as National Outcome Measures (NOMS) that states are required to report to assess their progress in implementing SAMHSA-funded programs. In the area of prevention, four NOMS have been identified for reporting purposes. These include (1) past 30-day cigarette, alcohol, marijuana, other tobacco products and illegal drug use; (2) age of first use of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, other tobacco product and illegal drug use; (3) approval of cigarette, alcohol and marijuana use; and (4) perceived risk/harm from cigarette, alcohol and marijuana use. This chapter reports findings on these measures.

Substance Use

Lifetime & Past Month (30-day) Substance Use

Substance Use Comparisons with a National Sample.

Table 4 below displays lifetime and 30-day substance use for Missouri youth compared to national data from the 2009 NSDUH. In both Missouri and the nation, alcohol use was higher than all other drugs, followed by cigarette and marijuana use. Alcohol, cigarette, chewing tobacco and inhalant use was higher in Missouri than nationally. National and Missouri lifetime marijuana use rates were similar and Missouri has a higher 30-day marijuana use rate.

As has been the trend in the past in Missouri, alcohol was the substance used by most youth both in their lifetime and the past 30 days, followed by cigarettes and marijuana. Lifetime use of chewing tobacco, cigars and prescription drugs, three recently added substances, all exceeded 10% while illegal drug use other than marijuana was 3% or less.

Table 6 Percentage of Substance Users in Missouri and the United States

	Missouri ¹		United States ²	
	Lifetime	30-day	Lifetime	30-day
Cigarettes	26.6%	13.7%	22.2%	8.9%
Chewing Tobacco	11.4%	6.1%	7.6%	2.3%
Cigars	13.0%	6.3%	12.4%	4.0%
Alcohol	42.9%	19.8%	38.1%	14.7%
Marijuana	17.7%	9.4%	17.0%	7.3%
Inhalants	6.5%	3.0%	9.2%	1.0%
Prescription Drugs	11.1%	6.7%	n/a	n/a
Over-the-Counter Medications	7.7%	4.8%	n/a	n/a
Cocaine	1.6%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heroin	0.6%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hallucinogens	3.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Methamphetamine	0.9%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Club Drugs	2.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Steroids	1.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), 6th – 12th grade, n = 129,901, average age = 14.47

² National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2009), 12-17 years of age, n = 24,625, average age not yet available

Substance Use by Region.

There was little difference between the regions on most substances. The Southeast did have a high percentage of youth chewing tobacco especially compared to the Northwest and Eastern regions. The Central region had higher alcohol use.

Table 7 Percentage of Lifetime Substance Users by Region

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	24.6%	29.3%	24.2%	27.8%	33.0%
Chewing Tobacco	9.5%	15.2%	6.7%	14.8%	19.7%
Cigars	12.2%	15.2%	11.2%	14.4%	15.6%
Alcohol	39.4%	47.2%	43.9%	39.8%	46.2%
Marijuana	16.5%	15.7%	20.7%	16.0%	16.6%
Inhalants	6.1%	6.7%	5.9%	7.1%	8.1%
Prescription Drugs	10.5%	11.4%	10.1%	11.8%	13.9%
Over-the-Counter Medications	7.4%	7.9%	7.4%	8.4%	8.4%
Cocaine	1.7%	1.9%	1.5%	1.7%	1.5%
Heroin	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Hallucinogens	2.5%	2.9%	3.2%	3.3%	3.0%
Methamphetamine	0.9%	1.0%	0.6%	1.1%	1.1%
Club Drugs	2.1%	2.4%	2.2%	2.3%	2.0%
Steroids	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	1.1%	1.4%

Table 8 Percentage of Past Month (30-day) Substance Users by Region

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	12.7%	14.9%	12.4%	14.3%	17.3%
Chewing Tobacco	5.0%	8.2%	3.5%	7.9%	11.1%
Cigars	6.1%	7.0%	5.4%	7.0%	7.9%
Alcohol	17.3%	22.0%	21.4%	17.0%	21.8%
Marijuana	8.6%	7.5%	11.9%	8.0%	8.4%
Inhalants	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%
Prescription Drugs	6.3%	6.7%	6.4%	6.7%	8.1%
Over-the-Counter Medications	4.7%	4.8%	4.6%	5.0%	5.4%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Substance Use by Gender.

When lifetime substance use by gender was considered, more females reported using alcohol, inhalants, prescription drugs and over the counter medications than did males. A greater percentage of males, however, reported using chewing tobacco and cigars in their lifetime than did females. There were only a slight differences in the remaining drugs. Thirty-day and lifetime use trends were similar.

Table 9 Percentage of Substance Users by Gender

	Male		Female	
	Lifetime	30-day	Lifetime	30-day
Cigarettes	26.7%	13.8%	26.5%	13.6%
Chewing Tobacco	18.2%	10.8%	5.0%	1.7%
Cigars	17.2%	8.7%	9.2%	4.1%
Alcohol	41.4%	18.7%	44.2%	20.9%
Marijuana	18.5%	10.2%	16.9%	8.7%
Inhalants	5.9%	2.6%	7.1%	3.4%
Prescription Drugs	9.3%	5.5%	12.7%	7.7%
Over-the-Counter Medications	6.2%	3.8%	9.2%	5.8%
Cocaine	1.9%	n/a	1.4%	n/a
Heroin	0.7%	n/a	0.6%	n/a
Hallucinogens	3.6%	n/a	2.4%	n/a
Methamphetamine	0.8%	n/a	0.9%	n/a
Club Drugs	2.3%	n/a	2.2%	n/a
Steroids	1.3%	n/a	0.9%	n/a

Substance Use by Age.

Prescription drugs and over the counter medications show a slight decrease in lifetime use as reported by 18 year olds while inhalants show a leveling out in use rates with age. All other drugs show an increase in lifetime use with an increase in age. There is a similar trend for 30-day use, although the drop in inhalant use was sharper.

Figure 4 Percentage Lifetime Substance Users by Age

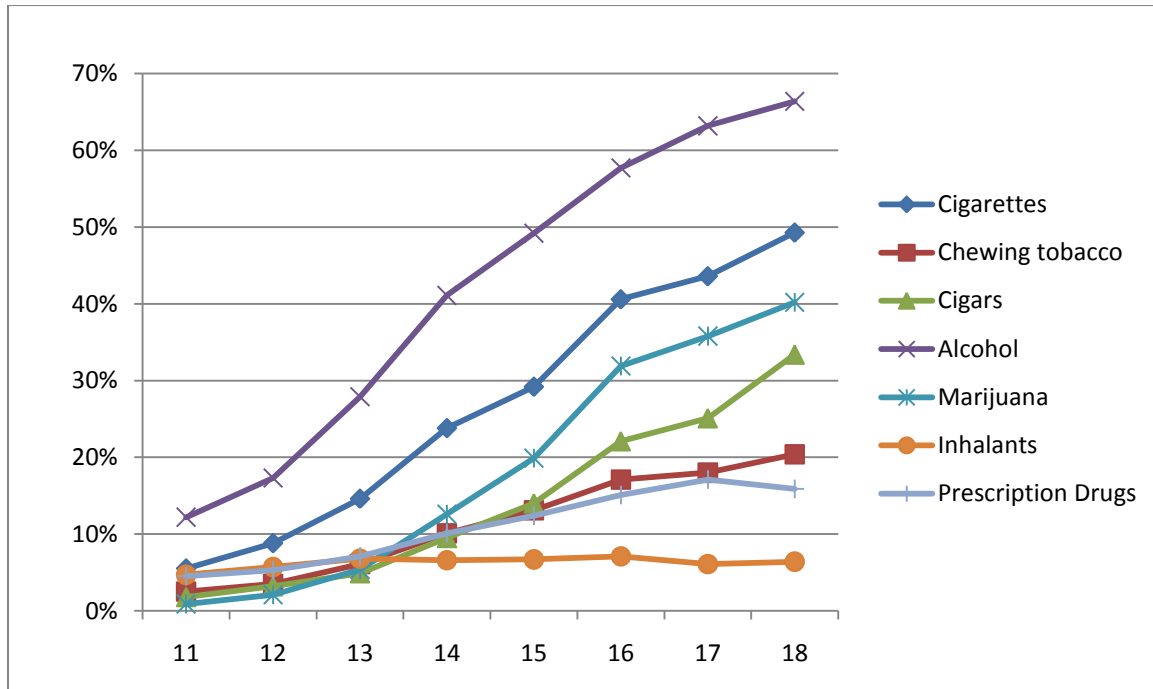
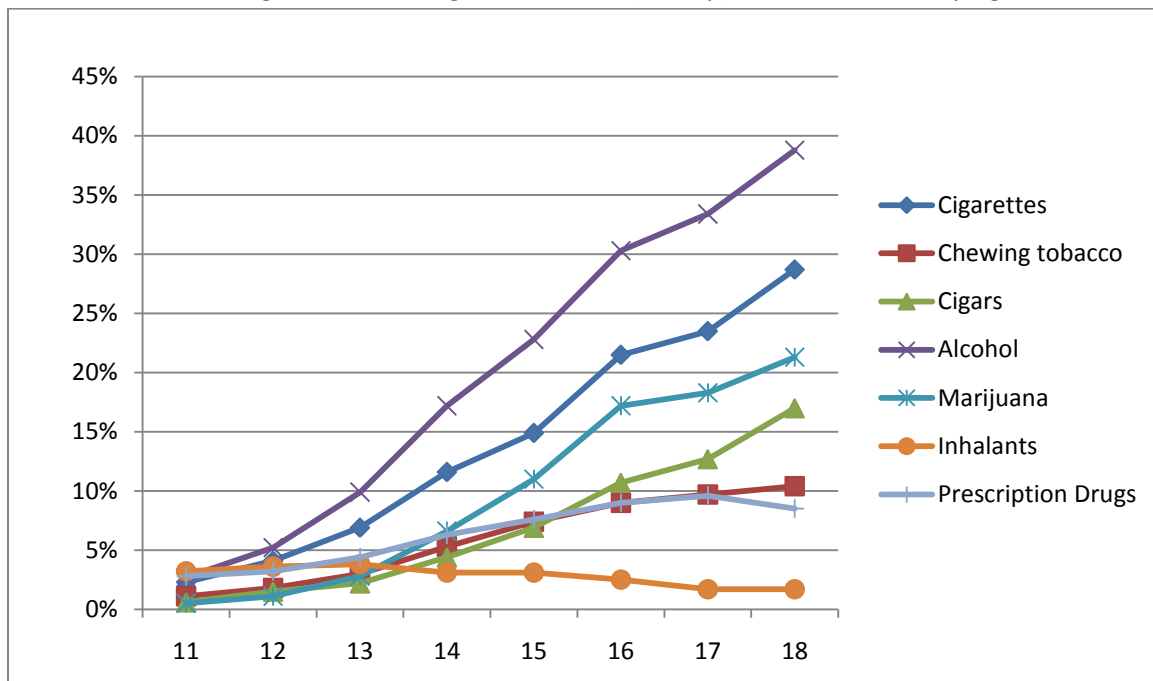


Figure 5 Percentage Past Month (30-day) Substance Users by Age



Age of First Substance Use

Age of First Substance Use Comparisons with National Samples.

Data are not yet available for comparison purposes from the 2009 NSDUH, therefore only Missouri rates are reported here. Although there is little difference in their age of first use for substances, youth reported using inhalants at an earlier age than they did marijuana.

Table 10 Age of First Substance Use

Cigarettes	12.29
Alcohol	12.54
Marijuana	13.53
Inhalants	11.95

Age of First Substance Use by Region.

While there was little difference in age of first use within a substance category, there was age variability across drugs for cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana. Youth in the Northwest and Eastern region started using inhalants at a younger age than youth in any region began using marijuana, by almost 2 years in some regions.

Table 11 Age of First Substance Use by Region

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	12.28	12.33	12.53	12.11	11.94
Alcohol	12.57	12.37	12.71	12.42	12.33
Marijuana	13.49	13.47	13.64	13.37	13.44
Inhalants	11.69	12.20	11.7	12.23	12.33

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Age of First Substance Use by Gender.

There was little difference in age of first use for cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana between males and females.

Table 12 Age of First Substance Use by Gender

	Male	Female
Cigarettes	12.16	12.41
Alcohol	12.30	12.76
Marijuana	13.33	13.73
Inhalants	11.99	11.93

Substance Use Extent & Circumstances

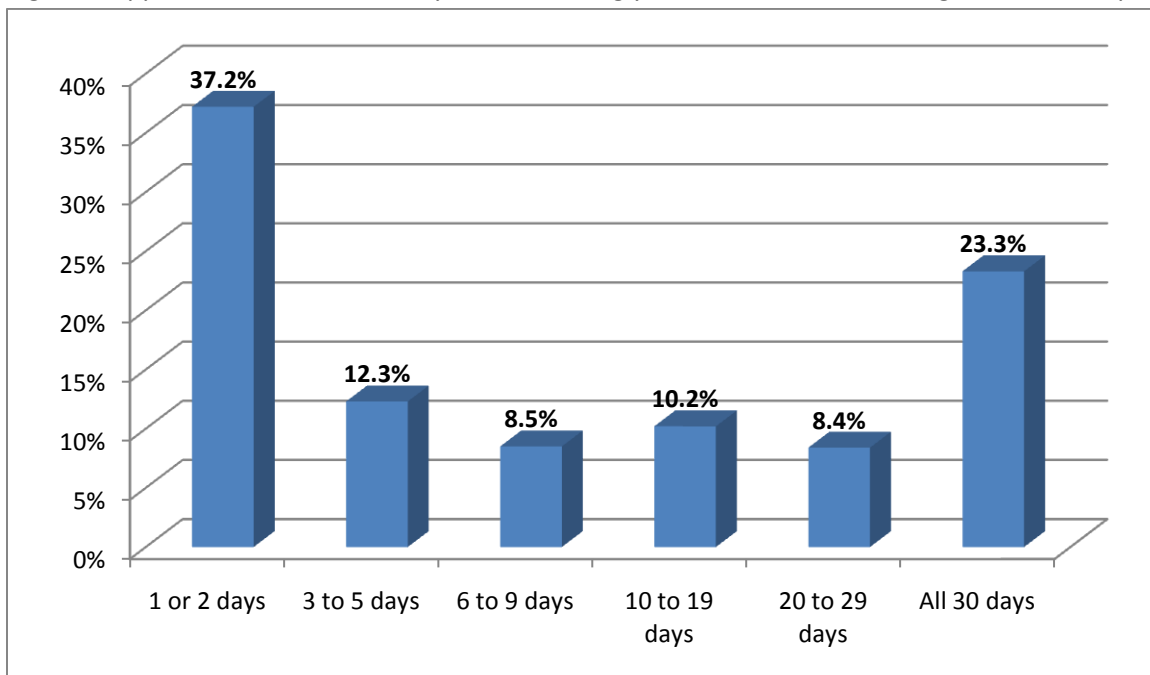
Tobacco.

Of those youth who reported not currently smoking, 79.5% said they would “definitely not” smoke a cigarette in the next year. Similarly, 78.3% said they would “definitely not” smoke a cigarette if one of their best friends offered it to them.

Cigarette smokers fell on a U-shaped curve with users either smoking only 1 or 2 days out of the month or smoking on a daily basis; however, a little over a third of the youth who reported smoking were doing it on a heavier, yet still sporadic basis.

Of past month users, 70.6% tried to quit smoking at some point, half of whom (53.5%) did so successfully.

Figure 6 Approximate number of days of use among youth who had smoked cigarettes in the past month



Cigarette smokers smoked an average of 2.5 cigarettes a day, on the days that they did smoke. As shown in Figure 7, only a very small percentage of users report smoking more than 15 cigarettes a day. Importantly, almost *one-third* of cigarette smokers (29%) were smoking on school property.

Figure 7 Number of Days youth smoked on school property, of those who smoked in the past month

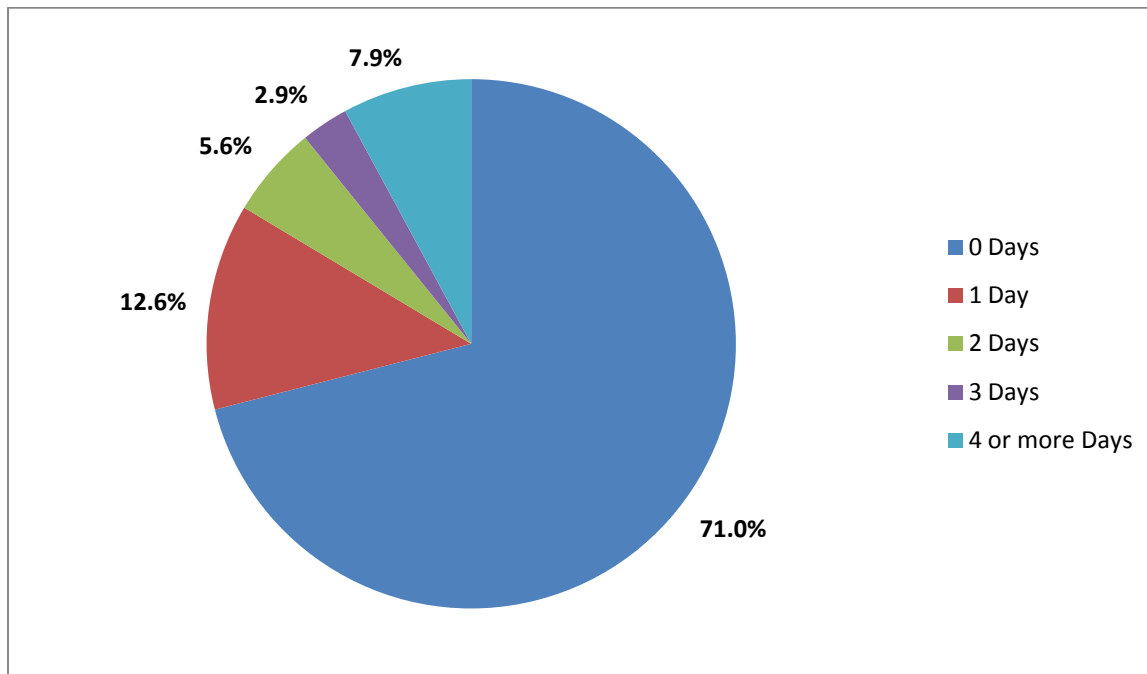
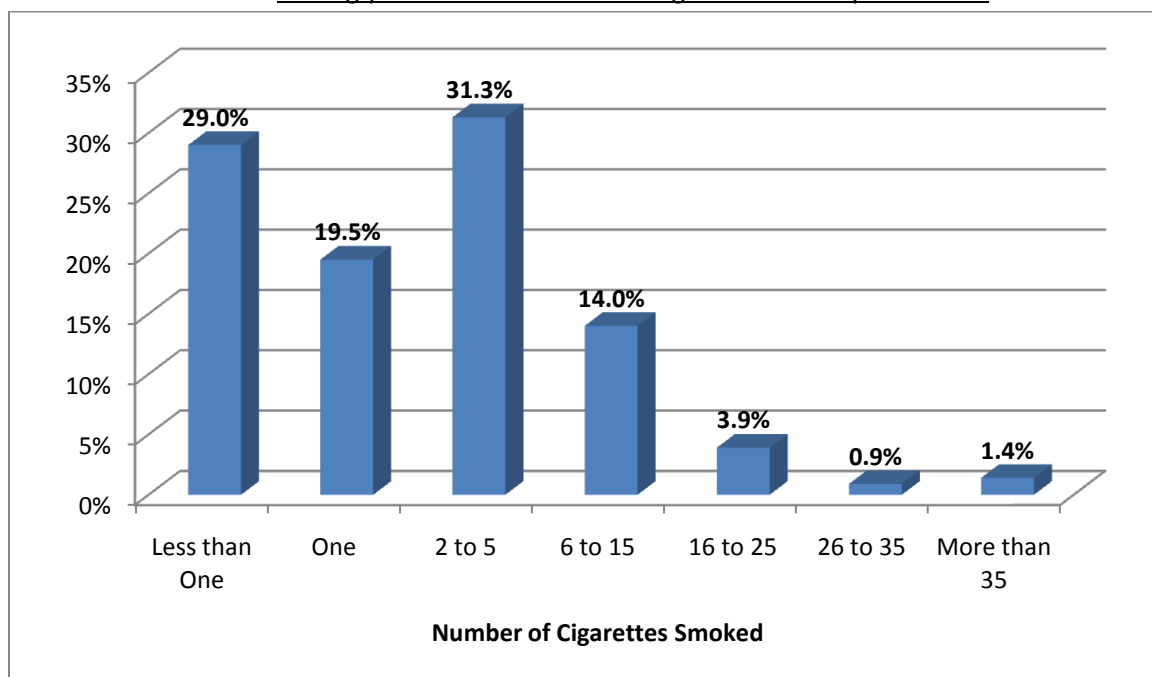
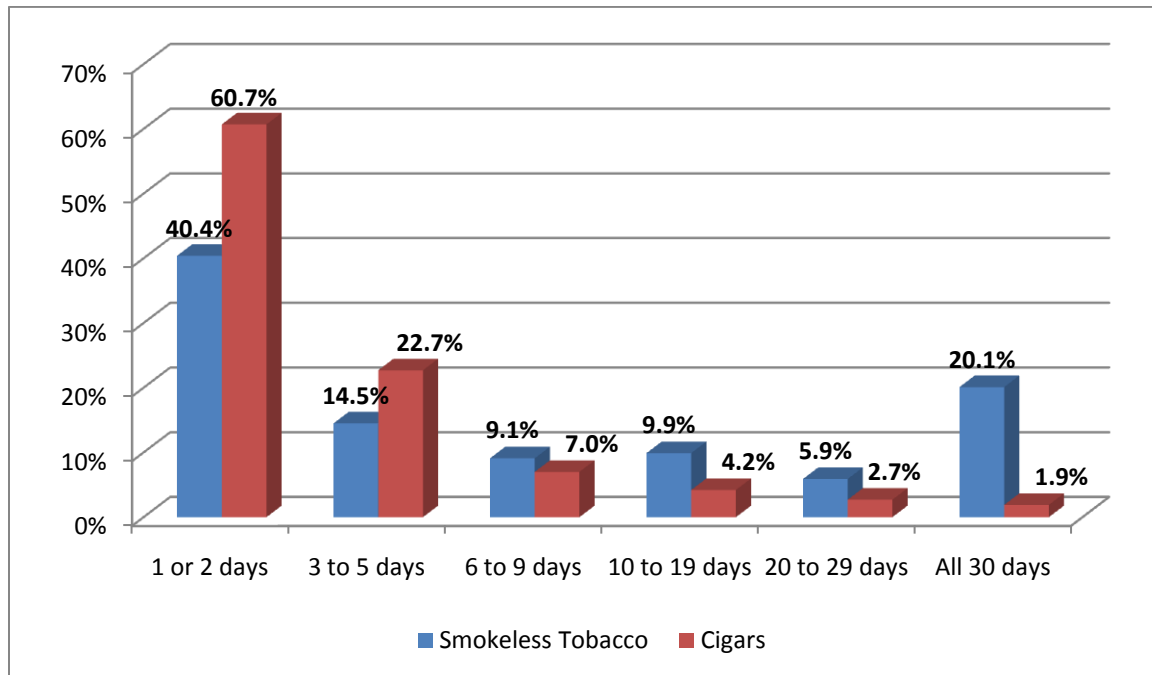


Figure 8 Average number of cigarettes smoked per day (on that day/days that cigarettes were smoked) among youth who had smoked cigarettes in the past month



The use of smokeless tobacco and cigars is similar to cigarettes in that most users fall in the '1 or 2 day' range, while about 20% of those reporting use, were heavy users. Only a very small percentage of cigar users reported doing so on a more frequent basis.

Figure 9 Approximate number of days of use among youth who had used smokeless tobacco or smoked cigars in the past month

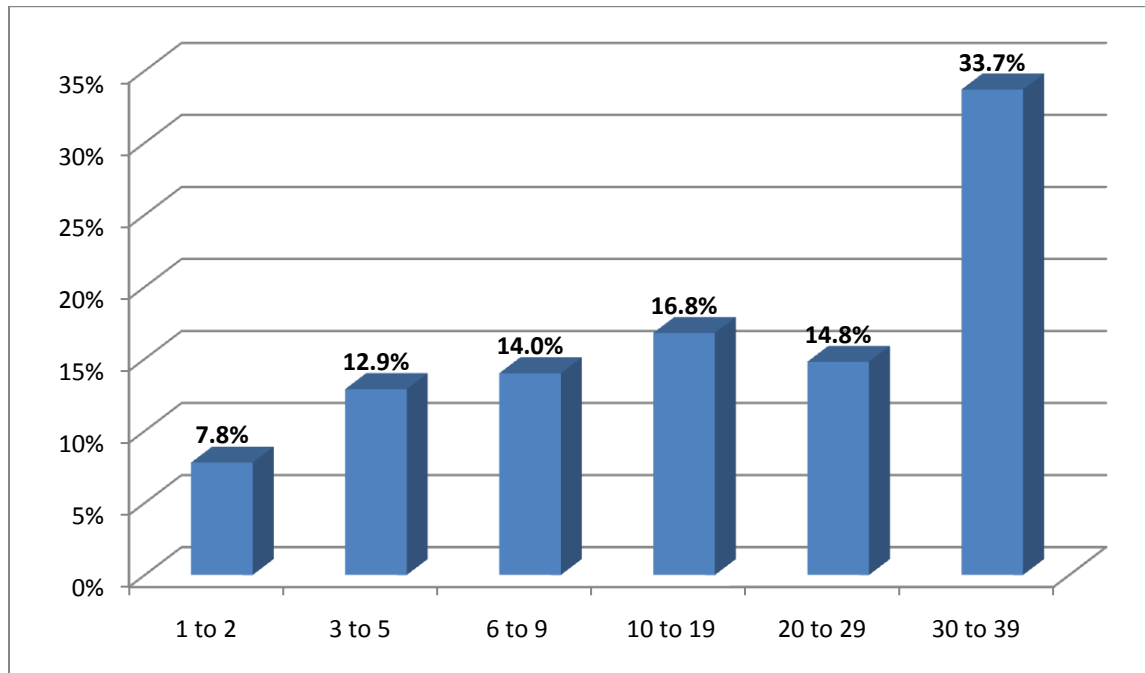


Alcohol.

Alcohol use is fairly high among those who have had at least one drink in their lifetime, with around one third (33.7%) reporting that they have had alcohol on at least 30 occasions.

Among all youth, 43.9% said they would “definitely not” drink alcohol if one of their best friends offered it to them while 10.6% said “definitely yes”.

Figure 10 Approximate number of times youth had at least one drink of alcohol in their lifetime, among those who had had a drink at least once



Among those youth who had reported drinking in the last 30 days, over half of them reported drinking only 1 or 2 days. However, 58.1% of youth who had drank in the past month reported having 5 or more drinks (binge drinking) during at least one of those drinking experiences. While youth did not drink on often, when they did, many of them were drinking heavily.

In addition, 9.3% of past month users drank on school property at least once and 15.8% of past month users drove a car or vehicle when having consumed alcohol while 22.3% rode with someone who had been drinking.

Figure 11 Approximate number of days of use among youth who had consumed alcohol in the past month

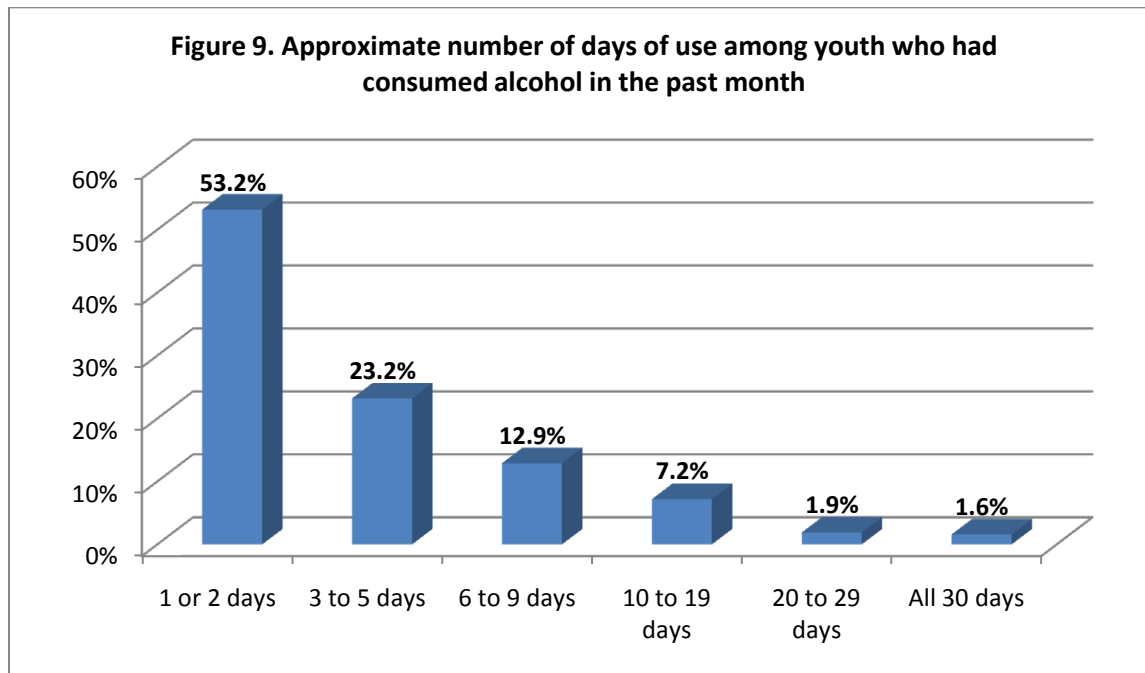
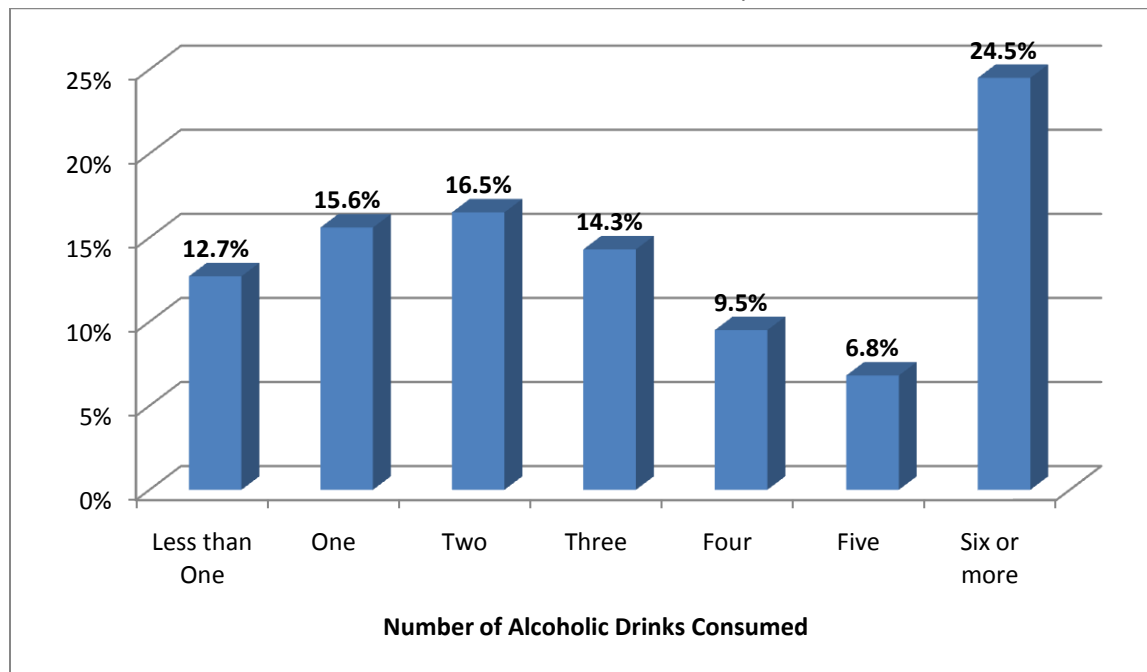


Figure 12 Average number of drinks consumed (on the day/days that alcohol was used) among youth who consumed alcohol in the past month



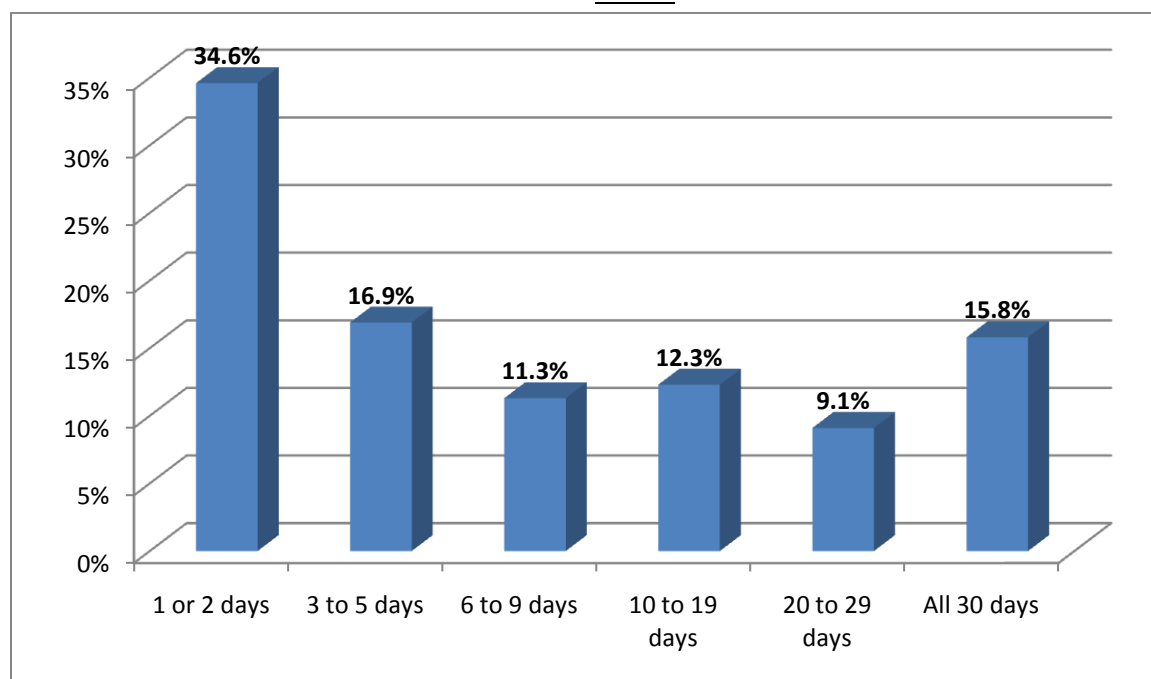
Marijuana.

Of those surveyed, 73.8% said they would “definitely not” smoke marijuana if one of their best friends offered it to them while 6.3% said they definitely would smoke.

Of those youth who smoked marijuana in the past month, there is again a slight U-shaped curve with the largest percentage of youth reporting smoking 1 or 2 days in the month and almost 16% of users reporting daily use.

A fairly high percentage (21%) of past month users smoked marijuana on school property in the past 30 days.

Figure 13 Approximate number of days of use among youth who had smoked marijuana in the past month



Factors Associated with Adolescent Substance Use

Perceived Risk of Harm from Substances

The large majority of youth thought that other illegal drugs and alcohol posed a great risk to themselves physically and in other ways. While all were perceived to be less harmful, almost half of the youth thought cigarettes posed great risk of harm and only 36.2% of youth reported that marijuana use put them at great risk of harm. The majority of youth thought that all drugs posed at least a moderate risk. However, almost 11% of youth thought that alcohol posed no risk at all.

Table 13 Youths' Perception of Risk of Harm from Using Substances

	No Risk at All	Slight Risk	Moderate Risk	Great Risk
Cigarettes	5.4%	13.9%	32.1%	48.7%
Alcohol	10.7%	14.6%	19.5%	55.1%
Marijuana	5.7%	22.1%	36.0%	36.2%
Other Illegal Drugs	3.7%	3.6%	10.0%	82.8%

Perceived Risk of Harm from Substances by Region.

Regardless of region, the majority of the sample regarded the use of substances as risky. There were only slight differences between regions.

Table 14 Youths' Perception of Risk of Harm from Using Substances by Region
(Moderate & Great Risk combined percentages)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	80.0%	80.8%	82.5%	80.0%	77.8%
Alcohol	75.0%	77.5%	72.2%	75.9%	76.2%
Marijuana	72.5%	70.1%	71.3%	74.9%	73.0%
Other Illegal Drugs	91.8%	93.6%	93.0%	93.0%	92.8%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Perceived Risk of Harm from Substances by Gender.

For all substances, females perceived use, especially of alcohol, to be riskier than males.

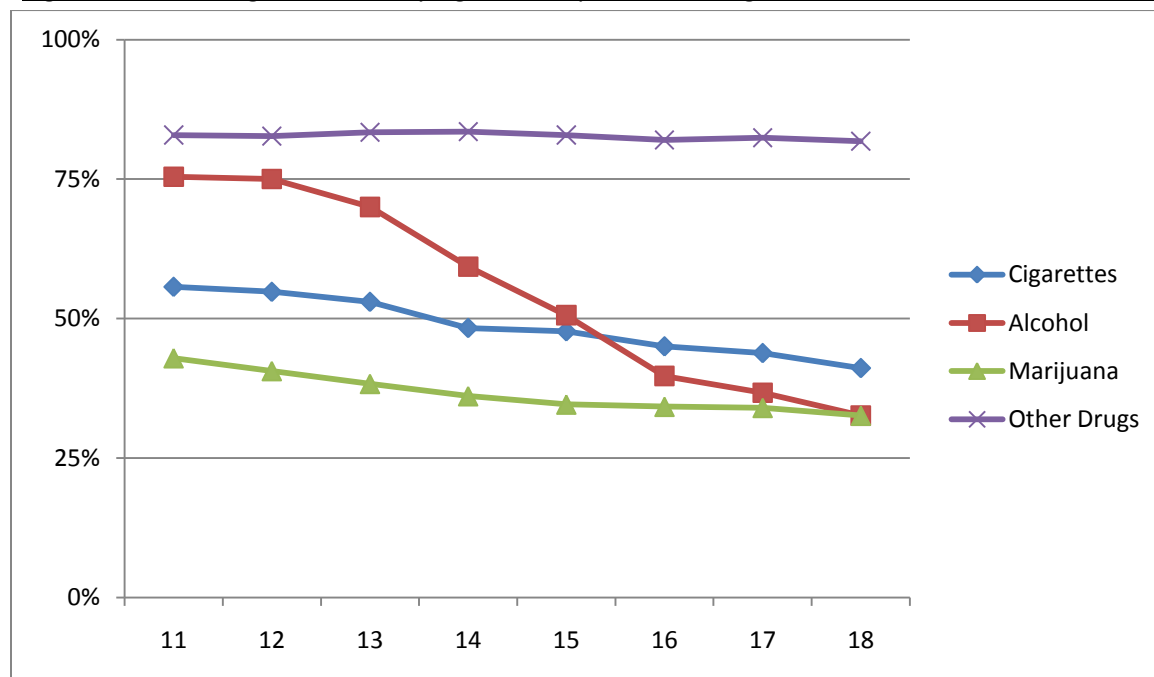
Table 15 Youths' Perception of Risk of Harm from Using Substances by Gender
(Moderate & Great Risk combined percentages)

	Male	Female
Cigarettes	79.0%	82.3%
Alcohol	70.5%	78.6%
Marijuana	69.8%	74.4%
Other Illegal Drugs	91.6%	93.8%

Perceived Risk of Harm from Substances by Age.

Youth perceived illegal drugs to be very risky regardless of their age. As youth age, however, the risk of harm from alcohol use decreases dramatically, with 75% of 11 year olds versus slightly more than 25% of 18 year olds perceiving alcohol to put them at great risk. Risk of marijuana and cigarette use decreases slightly with age.

Figure 14 Percentage of Youths by Age who Report that Using Substances Poses a "Great Risk" of Harm



Morality of Substance Use

The majority of youth thought that it was very wrong to use cigarettes, marijuana and other illegal drugs. Alcohol use was most accepted with only 39.2% reporting that it would be 'very wrong' to have a drink of any type of alcohol. This is similar to perception of harm.

Table 16 Youths' Perception of Wrongfulness of Substance Use

	Not wrong at all	A little bit wrong	Wrong	Very wrong
Cigarettes	8.5%	12.8%	19.6%	59.1%
Alcohol	15.2%	25.5%	20.2%	39.2%
Marijuana	9.6%	10.1%	12.8%	67.5%
Other Illegal Drugs	2.3%	3.3%	8.5%	86.0%

Attitudes toward Substance Use by Region.

There were only slight differences between regions on attitudes towards substance use.

Table 17 Youths' Perception of Wrongfulness of Substance Use by Region
(Wrong & Very Wrong combined percentages)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	79.5%	77.5%	80.5%	77.0%	75.4%
Alcohol	62.1%	56.1%	57.3%	63.1%	58.0%
Marijuana	81.2%	82.7%	77.3%	81.9%	82.4%
Other Illegal Drugs	96.8%	96.8%	96.7%	96.5%	96.7%

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⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Attitudes toward Substance Use by Gender.

Females perceived the use of all substances to be more wrong than males.

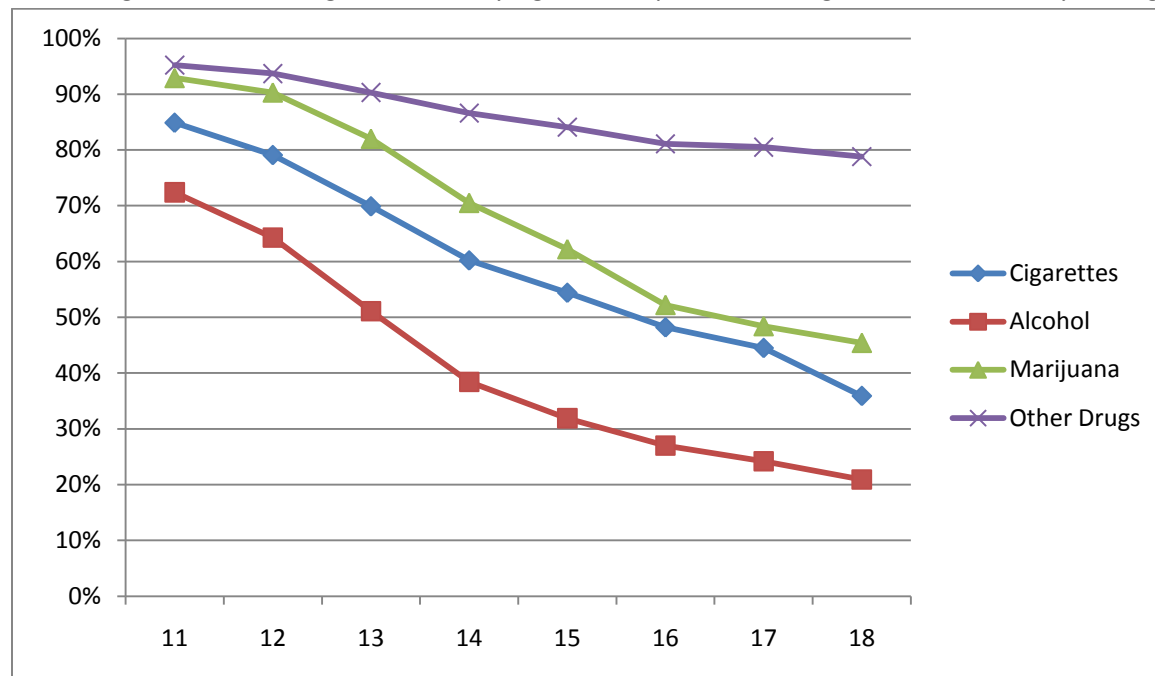
Table 18 Youths' Perception of Wrongfulness of Substance Use by Gender
(Wrong & Very Wrong combined percentages)

	Male	Female
Cigarettes	77.3%	80.0%
Alcohol	58.9%	59.7%
Marijuana	78.1%	82.4%
Other Illegal Drugs	93.5%	95.3%

Attitudes toward Substance Use by Age.

Perceived wrongfulness of all substances decreased as age increased. However, the perceptions of wrongfulness of using drugs other than cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana remained relatively high.

Figure 15 Percentage of Youths by Age who Report that Using Substances is "Very Wrong"



Peer Substance Use

The majority of youth surveyed had no friends who used cigarettes, marijuana or other illegal drugs. A majority of youth, however, did have at least one friend who drank alcohol. Of the youths who did have at least one friend who used cigarettes, alcohol or marijuana, the largest category reported was "4 or more friends" indicating a large part of the youth's social group was engaging in the activity. Most youth reported having no friends who used other illegal drugs, however, the percentage who reported at least one friend as using was significantly higher than the percentage of individual drug use reported above, suggesting that while youth may not be disclosing their own drug use, they were willing to disclose their friend's use.

Table 19 Percentage of Youth who have Friends Use Substances

	0 friends	1 friend	2 friends	3 friends	4 or more friends
Cigarettes	53.3%	12.5%	9.6%	5.0%	19.5%
Alcohol	42.4%	11.2%	10.0%	6.4%	30.0%
Marijuana	61.7%	8.9%	6.6%	4.2%	18.6%
Other Illegal Drugs	82.2%	7.3%	4.2%	1.9%	4.4%

Peer Substance Use by Region.

There were modest regional differences among those youth who reported having friends who used drugs. The largest percentage difference was between those youth who reported peer smoking in the Northwest versus those in the Southeast.

Table 20 Percentage of Youth who have Friends Use Substances by Region
(1 or more friends)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	44.5%	49.3%	45.5%	46.8%	51.6%
Alcohol	54.1%	62.6%	58.2%	54.8%	61.1%
Marijuana	36.8%	35.1%	42.9%	35.4%	36.4%
Other Illegal Drugs	17.3%	17.7%	18.0%	18.8%	17.3%

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³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

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⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Peer Substance Use by Gender.

Females reported having more friends who used cigarettes, alcohol or marijuana.

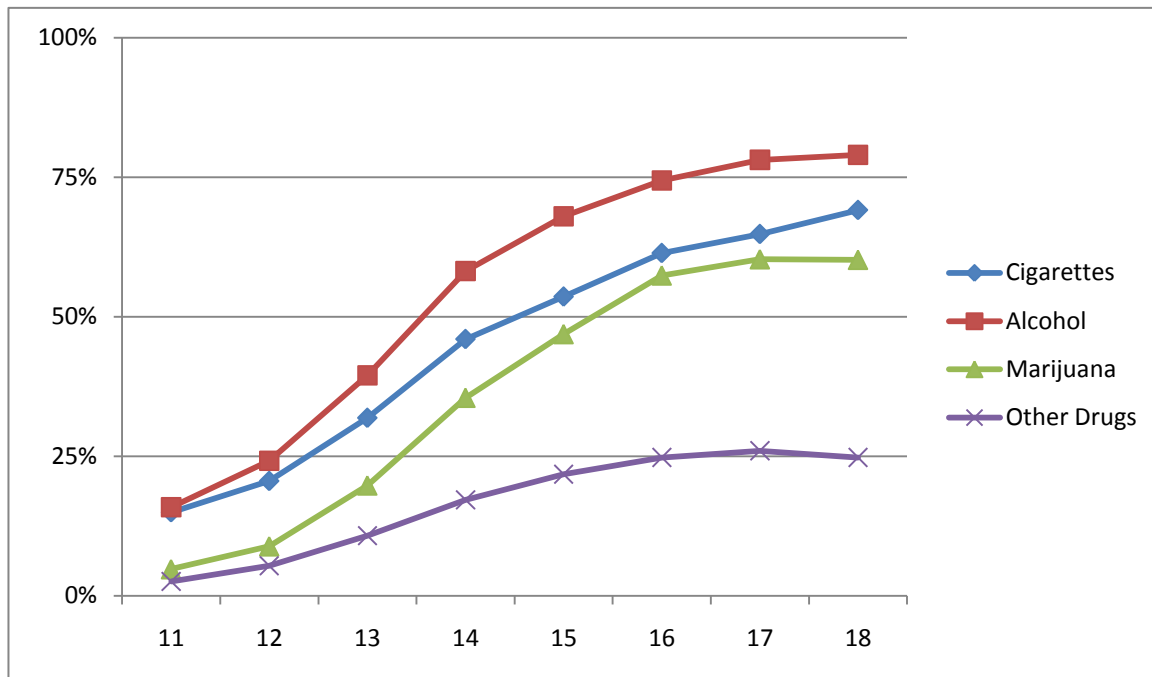
Table 21 Percentage of Youth who have Friends Use Substances by Gender
(1 or more friends)

	Male	Female
Cigarettes	45.6%	47.9%
Alcohol	54.7%	60.4%
Marijuana	54.7%	60.4%
Other Illegal Drugs	38.2%	38.5%

Peer Substance Use by Age.

Older youth were more likely to report that their friends use than younger youth. However, this trend levels out at age 17 for marijuana and other illegal drug use, mirroring the findings of those reporting self use.

**Figure 16 Percentage of Youth whose Friends have Used Substances
(in the past year) by Age (1 or more friends)**



Law Enforcement

The perceived effectiveness of law enforcement related to cigarette, alcohol and marijuana use was low. Most youth did not believe that the police would catch a substance user in their neighborhood. This is fairly consistent across all drugs.

Table 22 Percentage of Youth who Think The Police would Catch Substance Users in their Neighborhood

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Cigarettes	28.2%	44.5%	21.1%	6.2%
Alcohol	25.8%	43.6%	23.5%	7.1%
Marijuana	22.0%	36.8%	29.5%	11.7%

Law Enforcement by Region.

Youth in the various regions were fairly consistent in the perceptions of police activity in their neighborhoods.

Table 23 Percentage of Youth who Think The Police would Catch Substance Users in their Neighborhood by Region (Agree & Strongly Agree combined Percentages)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	28.8%	26.0%	28.2%	26.1%	24.3%
Alcohol	31.3%	29.1%	31.6%	29.7%	28.7%
Marijuana	41.9%	41.7%	41.3%	39.7%	40.5%

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³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Law Enforcement by Gender.

There were no differences between males and females regarding perceived effectiveness of the police in apprehending substance users.

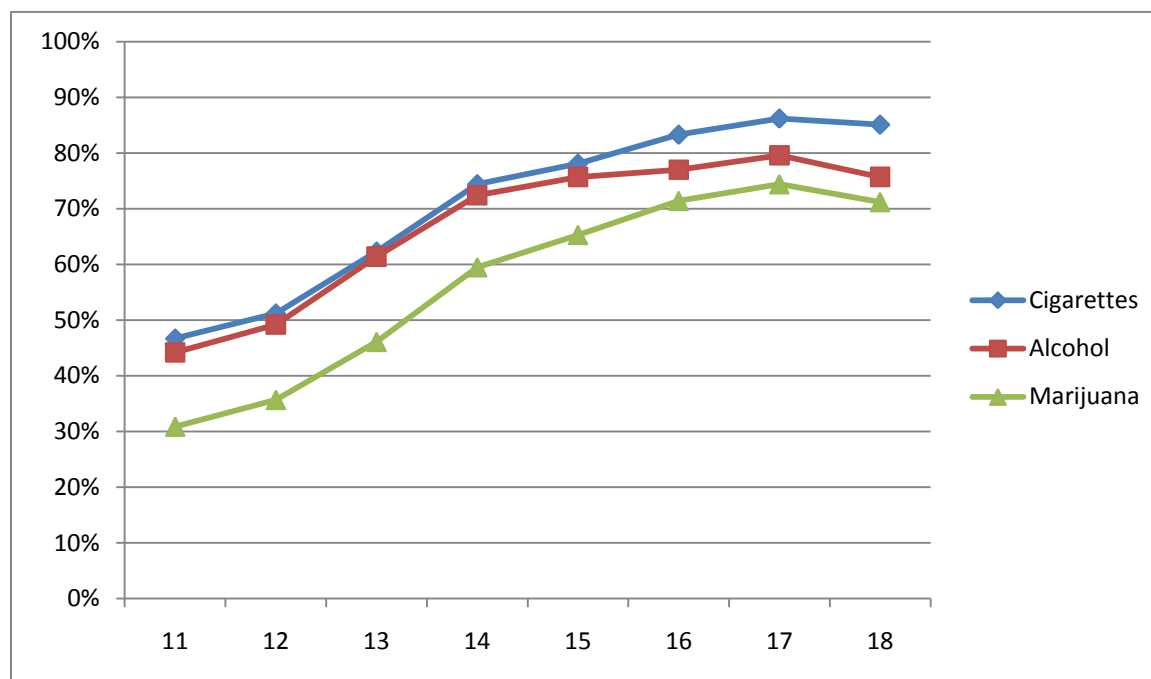
Table 24 Percentage of Youth who Think the Police would Catch Substance Users in their Neighborhood by Gender (Agree & Strongly Agree combined Percentages)

	Male	Female
Cigarettes	28.3%	26.4%
Alcohol	30.9%	30.3%
Marijuana	41.0%	41.4%

Law Enforcement by Age.

Younger youth were more likely to believe that the police would apprehend a substance user. Interestingly, youth believed police were most likely to catch a cigarette user than one using alcohol or marijuana.

Figure 17 Percentage of Youth who Do Not Think that the Police would Catch Substance Users in their Neighborhood by Age (Disagree & Strongly Disagree combined percentages)



Substance Availability

The majority of youth perceived that cigarettes and alcohol were either “very easy” or “sort of easy” to obtain. Marijuana and other illegal drugs were perceived as more difficult to obtain but a relatively large portion of youth still believed that they were easy to get.

Table 25 Youth Perception of Substance Availability

	Very Easy	Sort of Easy	Sort of Hard	Very Hard
Cigarettes	32.7%	23.3%	15.5%	28.4%
Alcohol	32.5%	26.2%	16.9%	24.5%
Marijuana	22.4%	16.1%	15.2%	46.3%
Other Illegal Drugs	7.9%	11.3%	18.7%	62.1%

Substance Availability by Region.

Youth in the Eastern region reported the highest percentage of perceived availability of alcohol and marijuana. Youth in the Southeast region reported the highest percentage of cigarette availability.

Table 26 Youth Perception of Substance Availability by Region
(“very easy” & “sort of easy” combined percentages)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Cigarettes	53.6%	56.9%	56.2%	56.4%	59.2%
Alcohol	56.2%	60.4%	61.6%	54.7%	58.6%
Marijuana	36.5%	33.3%	43.6%	36.4%	36.5%
Other Illegal Drugs	18.6%	17.7%	19.8%	19.9%	19.8%

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⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Substance Use Availability by Gender.

There were negligible differences between males and females in their perceptions of substance use availability.

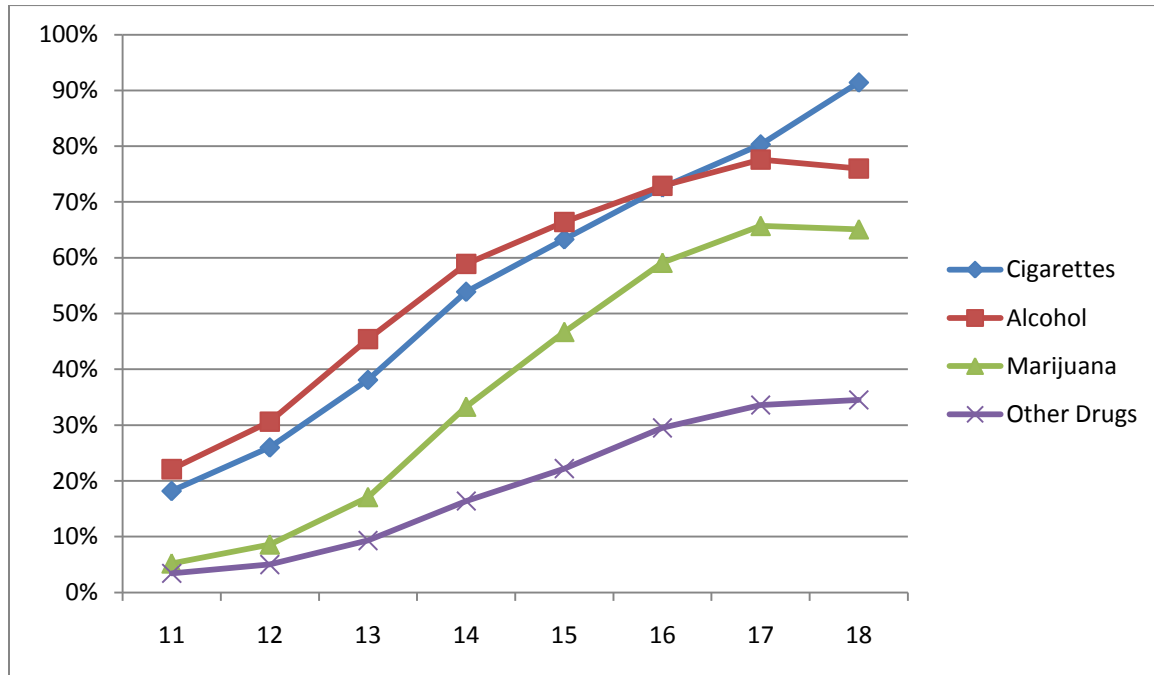
Table 27 Youth Perception of Substance Availability by Gender
(“very easy” & “sort of easy” combined percentages)

	Male	Female
Cigarettes	56.8%	55.2%
Alcohol	58.4%	58.9%
Marijuana	39.3%	37.7%
Other Illegal Drugs	19.1%	19.3%

Peer Substance Use by Age.

Youth's perception of the availability of substances generally increased with age. The perceived availability of alcohol and marijuana dropped slightly among 18-year-old youth. Cigarettes continued a steady climb with age, probably due to youth's ability to legally buy cigarettes starting at age 18.

Figure 18 Percentage of Youth who Find it who Perceive Substances to be Available by Age
((“very easy” & “sort of easy” combined percentages))



CHAPTER 3 – PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

This chapter contains information on self-reported problem behaviors, including emotional and relational bullying, physical aggression, and experience with weapons and factors associated with adolescent problem behaviors including rebellious and defiant attitudes, weapon availability, perceived law enforcement response to weapon possession, peer weapon use, and problem behavior and attitudes among the family.

Self-Reported Problem Behaviors

Emotional & Relational Bullying

Bullies

Youth were asked to report the number of times in the past three months they either bullied others or were bullied by another student. The bullying behaviors surveyed were spreading rumors, making fun of others, and embarrassing or hurting another student using text messaging or the Internet.

The majority of students reported that they had not spread mean rumors or lies at school nor had they embarrassed or hurt another student either through the internet or through text messaging. However, over 70% of youth reported making fun of other people, and around 10% reported doing this 40 or more times.

Victims of Bullying

A majority of students reported that they had not had mean rumors or lies spread about them, but a greater percentage reported that they had been made fun of in the past three months. Less commonly, youth were embarrassed or hurt through the Internet or text messaging.

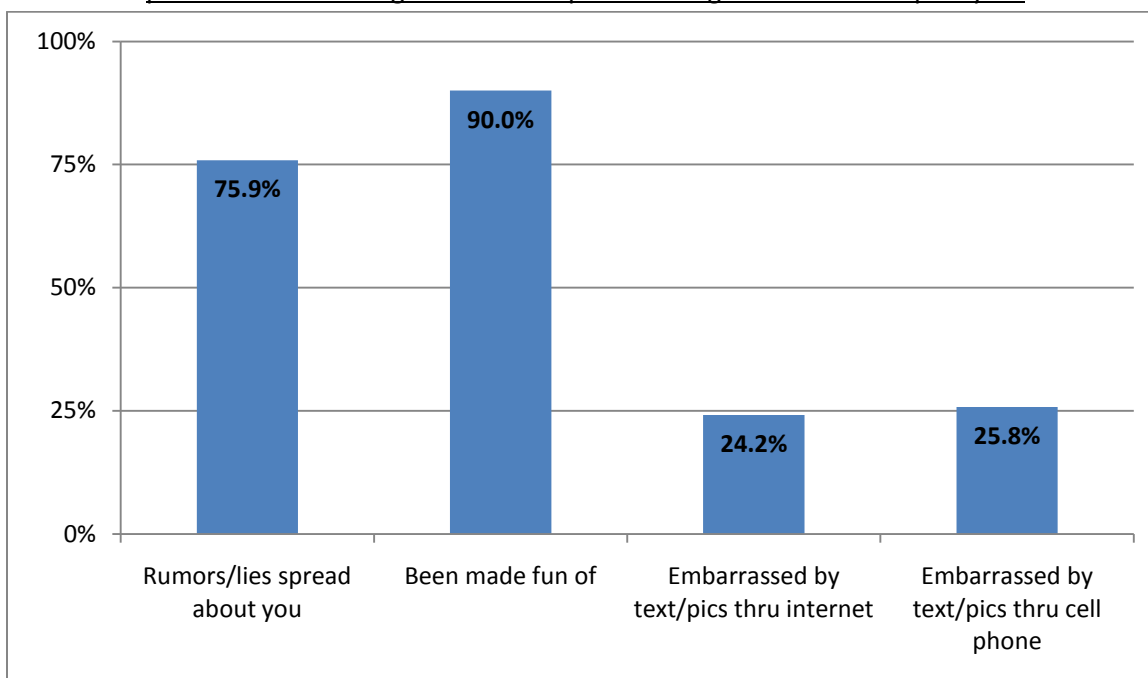
Table 28 Frequency of Emotional & Relational Bullying in the Past 3 Months

		Never	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 or more
By you	Spread mean rumors or lies about others at school	67.1%	22.2%	5.3%	2.1%	1.2%	0.5%	0.2%	1.3%
	Made fun of other people	27.9%	32.4%	13.4%	6.9%	5.6%	2.9%	1.2%	9.8%
	Embarrassed or hurt another student:								
	Through the internet	88.8%	6.5%	1.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%	1.2%
	Through text messaging	86.8%	8.1%	1.9%	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.1%	1.0%
To you									
	Mean rumors or lies spread about you at school	47.1%	27.2%	11.2%	5.1%	3.5%	1.6%	0.7%	3.6%
	Made fun of by others	32.5%	29.5%	13.6%	7.0%	5.2%	2.9%	1.1%	8.2%
	Embarrassed or hurt by another student:								
	Through the internet	87.1%	8.3%	2.1%	0.9%	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%	0.6%
	Through text messaging	86.0%	8.3%	2.5%	1.1%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.7%

Students were also specifically asked if they were bullied in the past year on school property. Bullying was defined as, “when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way”. One quarter of the students surveyed (25.0%) reported that they had been bullied on school property.

Of the youth who reported being bullied, most reported being made fun of. This was followed by reporting having rumors / lies spread about them at school.

Figure 19 The percentage of youth who reported being the victim of specific bullying behaviors in the past 3 months among those who reported being "bullied" in the past year



Emotional & Relational Bullying by Region.

There was little regional difference in bullying.

Table 29 Emotional & Relational Bullying by Region

		Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
By you	Spread mean rumors or lies about others at school	32.8%	32.7%	33.3%	32.2%	32.8%
	Made fun of other people	70.2%	74.4%	74.1%	69.0%	72.0%
	Embarrassed or hurt another student					
	Through the internet	11.4%	10.1%	12.3%	10.5%	9.8%
	Through text messaging	13.4%	13.0%	13.9%	12.2%	12.1%
To you	Mean rumors or lies spread about you at school	51.4%	56.2%	50.0%	54.7%	57.9%
	Made fun of by others	65.8%	68.3%	67.7%	67.7%	69.1%
	Embarrassed or hurt by another student					
	Through the internet	12.7%	12.6%	13.4%	12.3%	12.8%
	Through text messaging	13.9%	14.7%	13.1%	14.5%	14.9%
	Bullied by someone on school property	25.2%	26.0%	23.5%	25.5%	26.8%

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⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Emotional & Relational Bullying by Gender.

Generally, females reported bullying others and being bullied more than males. They were far more likely than males to report having mean rumors or lies spread about them at school. They were a little less likely to report being bullied on school property.

Table 30 Emotional & Relational Bullying by Gender

		Male	Female
By you	Spread mean rumors or lies about others at school	29.9%	35.5%
	Made fun of other people	70.7%	73.5%
	Embarrassed or hurt another student:		
	Through the internet	10.0%	12.2%
	Through text messaging	12.1%	14.1%
To you	Mean rumors or lies spread about you at school	45.6%	59.6%
	Made fun of by others	65.0%	69.7%
	Embarrassed or hurt by another student:		
	Through the internet	9.2%	16.2%
	Through text messaging	9.2%	18.3%
	Bullied by someone on school property	26.1%	23.9%

Emotional & Relational Bullying by Age.

Youth reports of being bullied on school property in the past three months consistently decreased as age increased. This was particularly true for youth between the ages of 11 and 13 especially in spreading mean rumors or lies about others. Reports of having been made fun of were the most frequent bullying behavior regardless of age. This is true for both youth reporting bullying and those reporting being a victim of bullying behaviors.

Figure 20 Percentage of Youth who Bullied Someone in the Past 3 Months by Age (1 or more times)

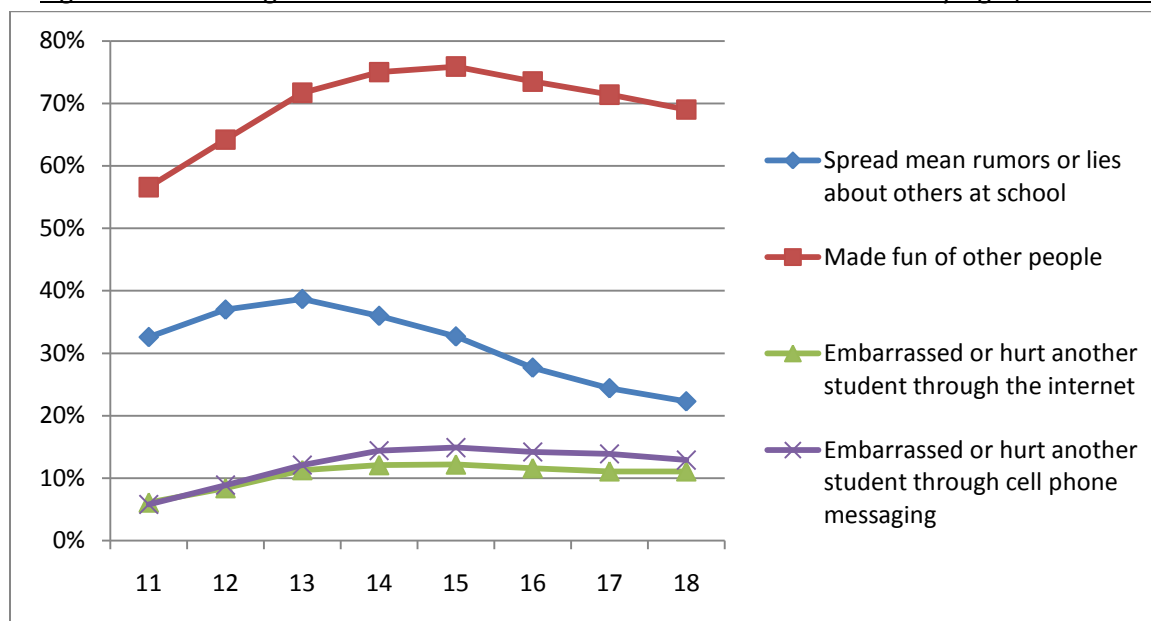
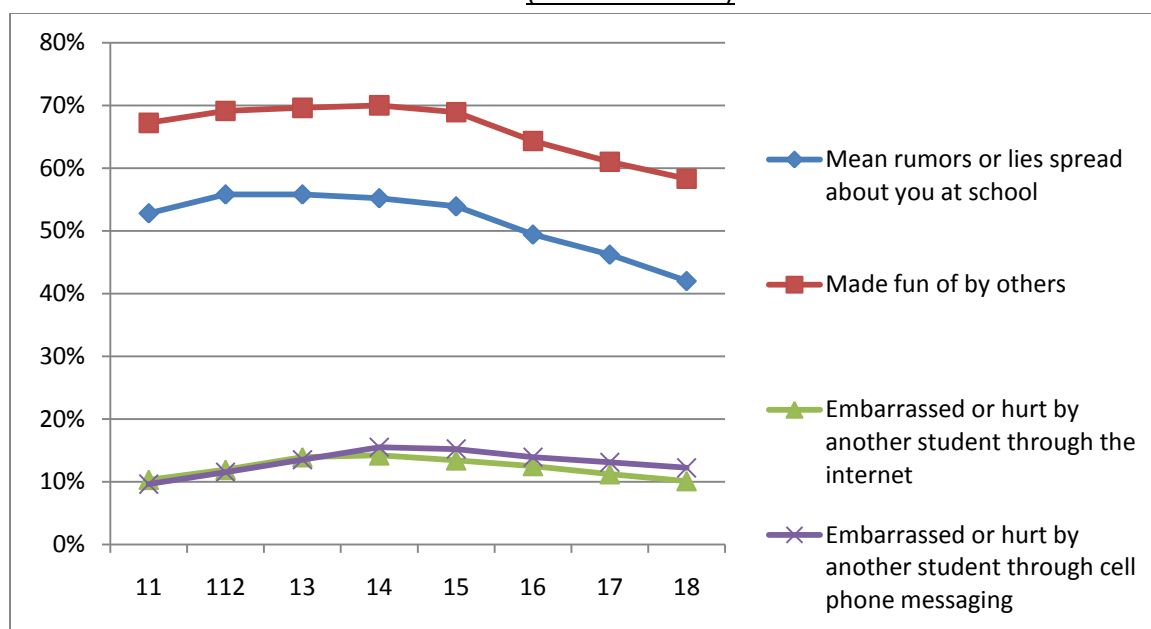


Figure 21 Percentage of Youth who were Bullied by Someone Else in the Past 3 Months by Age (1 or more times)



Physical Aggression & Experience with Weapons

Most students reported not engaging in a physical fight in the last year. Almost all youth reported they were not injured in a physical fight nor were they threatened with a weapon while on school property. For those who did engage in fighting, it was most likely to be a one-time incident.

Table 31: Frequency of Fighting and being Threatened/Injured with a Weapon in the past 12 months

	0 times	1 times	2 or 3 times	4 or 5 times	6 or 7 times	8 or 9 times	10 or 11 times	12 or more
In a physical fight	76.5%	11.3%	6.6%	2.2%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	1.9%
Injured in a physical fight (required medical treatment)	95.9%	2.7%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Threatened/Injured with a weapon on school property	90.5%	4.4%	2.6%	0.8%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	1.1%

Almost 15% of youth reported that they had carried a weapon in the past 30 days, but almost no youth reported carrying a weapon at school.

Table 32: Frequency of Carrying Weapons in the Past 30 days

	0 days	1 day	2 or 3 days	4 or 5 days	6 or more
Carried a weapon (gun, knife, club)	84.9%	3.9%	3.6%	1.3%	6.3%
Carried a gun (not including for hunting or sport)	96.8%	1.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0.9%
Carried a weapon (gun, knife, club) school property	96.0%	1.5%	0.4%	0.3%	1.5%

Physical Aggression & Experience with Weapons by Region.

There was little regional difference in fighting behaviors or threats/injuries with weapons.

The Northwest and Eastern regions reported much smaller percentages of youth carrying weapons than the other three regions.

Table 33 Fighting and being Threatened/Injured with a Weapon by Region
(1 or more times in the past 12 months)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
In a physical fight	23.5%	23.0%	23.8%	22.7%	24.7%
Injured in a physical fight (required medical treatment)	4.2%	3.9%	4.1%	3.9%	4.2%
Threatened/Injured with a weapon on school property	9.4%	9.9%	9.3%	9.9%	9.6%

Table 34 Carrying Weapons by Region (1 or more times in the Past 30 days)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Carried a weapon (gun, knife, club)	13.8%	18.1%	12.3%	17.9%	18.8%
Carried a gun (not including for hunting or sport)	3.3%	3.7%	2.7%	3.2%	3.6%
Carried a weapon (gun, knife, club) school property	3.3%	5.4%	2.7%	5.6%	5.8%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Physical Aggression & Experience with Weapons by Gender.

Females consistently reported far less fighting, injury and weapon carrying.

Table 35 Fighting and being Threatened/Injured with a Weapon by Gender
(1 or more times in the past 12 months)

	Male	Female
In a physical fight	31.6%	16.0%
Injured in a physical fight (required medical treatment)	5.6%	2.7%
Threatened/Injured with a weapon on school property	11.4%	7.8%

Table 36 Carrying Weapons by Gender (1 or more times in the Past 30 days)

	Male	Female
Carried a weapon (gun, knife, club)	24.8%	6.1%
Carried a gun (not including for hunting or sport)	5.3%	1.2%
Carried a weapon (gun, knife, club) school property	6.4%	1.8%

Physical Aggression & Experience with Weapons by Age.

Older youth reported less physical fighting than younger youth. Being injured in a physical fight and being threatened / injured with a weapon on school property did not differ by age.

Weapon carrying increased with age. While there is a spike among 11 year olds who report that they carried guns, there were relatively few 11 year olds in the survey (4.7%), so this finding should be interpreted cautiously.

Figure 22 Percentage of Youth Fighting and being Threatened/Injured with a Weapon by Age (1 or more times)

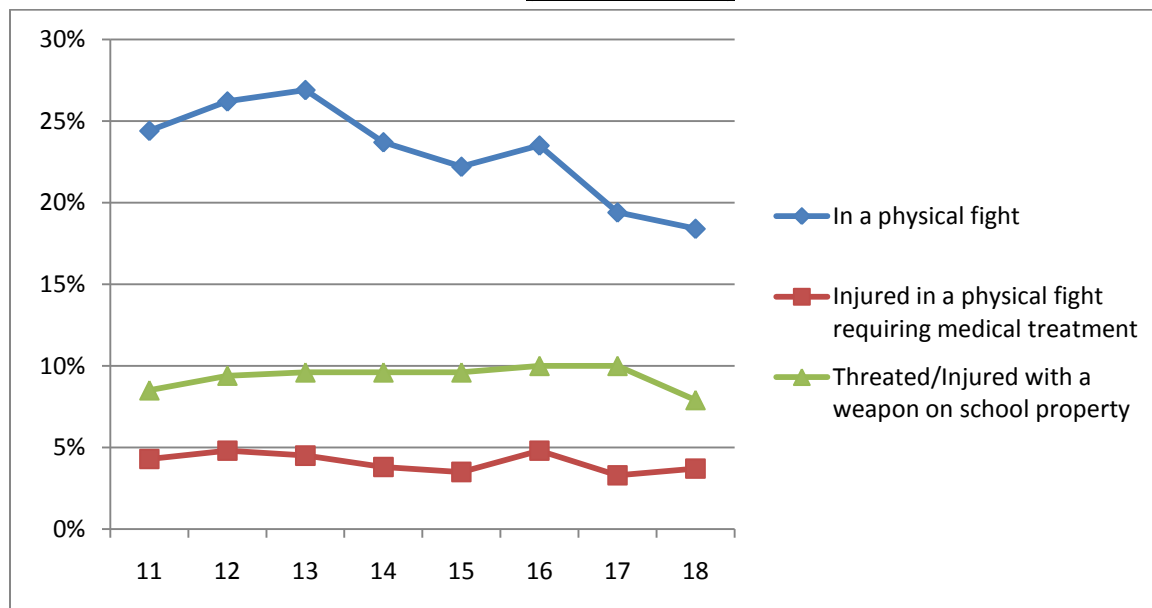
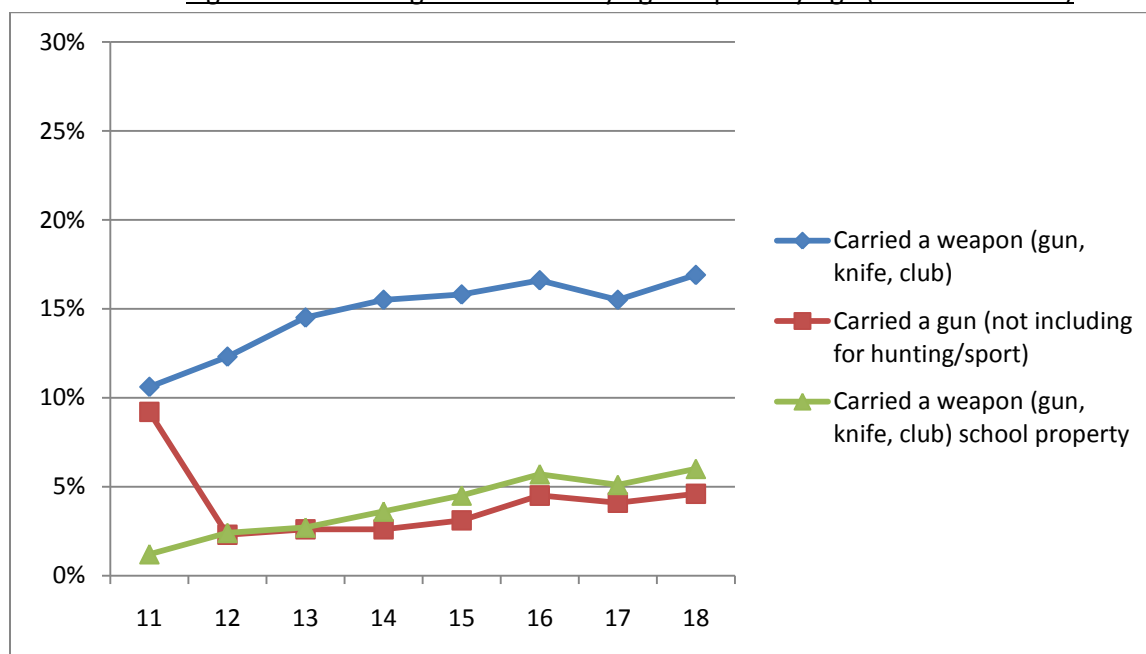


Figure 23 Percentage of Youth Carrying Weapons by Age (1 or more times)



Factors Associated with Adolescent Problem Behaviors

Rebellious & Defiant Attitudes

The majority of youth were not reporting rebellious and defiant attitudes. However, almost half of the youth strongly agreed or agreed that fighting back is acceptable if one is provoked. Stealing was least accepted.

Table 37 Extent of Rebellious and Defiant Attitudes

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I ignore rules that get in my way.	32.3%	43.7%	19.5%	4.5%
It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight.	23.9%	26.1%	28.6%	21.4%
It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished.	5.8%	11.7%	46.1%	36.4%
I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad.	33.5%	49.1%	13.9%	3.5%
I think it is okay to take something without asking if you can get away with it.	49.3%	41.0%	7.6%	2.0%
I think sometimes it is okay to cheat at school.	35.2%	40.0%	20.8%	3.9%

Rebellious & Defiant Attitudes by Region.

There was little difference across regions in rebellious and defiant attitudes, although youth in the Southeast region were more likely to report that defensive fighting and cheating were acceptable, but least likely to report that stealing was acceptable.

Table 38 Rebellious and Defiant Attitudes by Region (Agree & Strongly Agree combined percentages)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
I ignore rules that get in my way.	23.9%	24.1%	24.2%	23.3%	24.5%
It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight.	50.1%	47.9%	49.2%	50.1%	54.2%
It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished.	82.4%	82.7%	81.4%	83.6%	84.2%
I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad.	17.8%	17.1%	17.7%	16.2%	17.5%
I think it is okay to take something without asking if you can get away with it.	10.0%	9.5%	10.4%	8.7%	8.2%
I think sometimes it is okay to cheat at school.	23.3%	24.0%	25.4%	24.4%	27.5%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Rebellious & Defiant Attitudes by Gender.

Males were *much* more likely to agree that beating someone else is acceptable if the other person started the fight. Other gender differences were minor, though males were slightly more likely to agree that ignoring rules and cheating were acceptable.

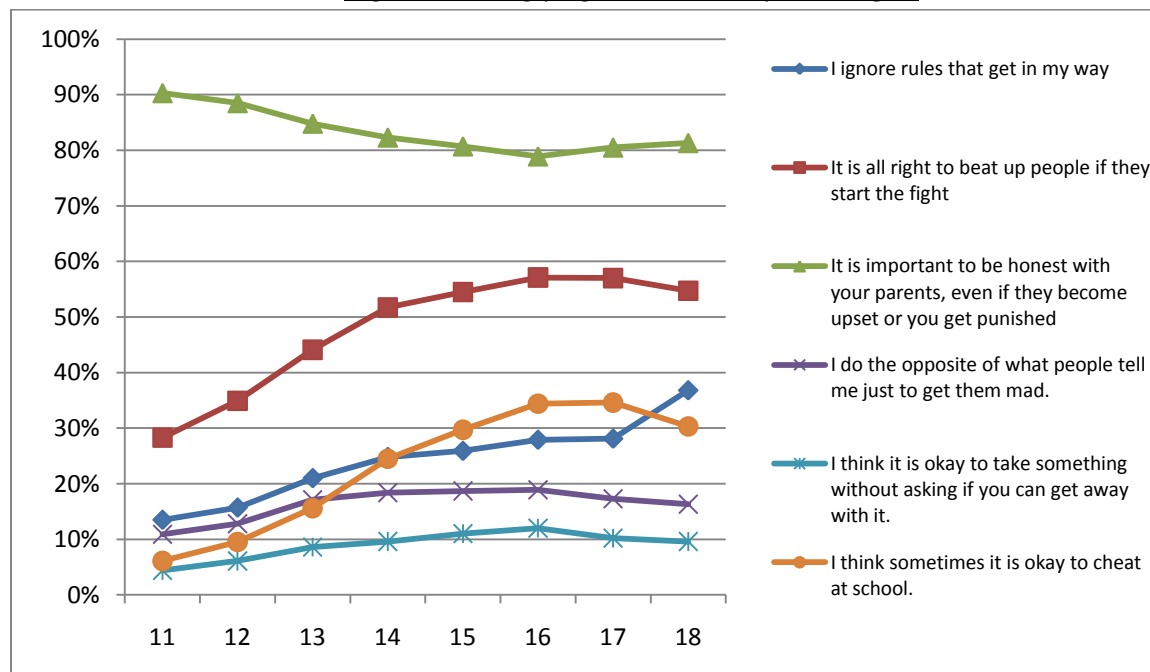
Table 39 Rebellious and Defiant Attitudes by Gender (Agree & Strongly Agree combined percentages)

	Male	Female
I ignore rules that get in my way.	25.8%	22.2%
It is all right to beat up people if they start the fight.	60.6%	40.1%
It is important to be honest with your parents, even if they become upset or you get punished.	82.6%	82.5%
I do the opposite of what people tell me, just to get them mad.	17.4%	17.4%
I think it is okay to take something without asking if you can get away with it.	11.6%	8.0%
I think sometimes it is okay to cheat at school.	26.3%	23.4%

Rebellious & Defiant Attitudes by Age.

Generally speaking, rebellious and defiant attitudes increased with age, although they tended to level out around 16 and 17. Regardless of age, youth were most likely to endorse beating people up if the other person started a fight.

Figure 24 Percentage of Youth with Rebellious and Defiant Attitudes by Age
(Agree & Strongly Agree combined percentages)



Weapons - Availability, Law Enforcement Response, and Peer Behavior

More than half of all youth at least agreed that a youth carrying a gun in their neighborhood would be caught by the police.

Table 40 Extent to which Youth Think The Police would Catch a Kid Carrying a Gun in their Neighborhood

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
If a kid was found carrying a gun in your neighborhood, or in the area around where you live, would he or she be caught by police?	16.1%	30.5%	36.2%	17.2%

The highest percentage of youth reported that it would be very hard to get a gun; however, over a third think it would be easy or very easy.

Table 41 Extent to which Youth think it would be Hard to Get a Gun

	Very easy	Easy	Sort of hard	Very Hard
If you wanted to get a gun, how easy would it be for you to get one?	20.8%	14.8%	21.3%	43.1%

While the vast majority of youth did not have a friend who carried a gun (not including use for hunting or sport), there were still more than 10% who did report one or more friends carrying a gun.

Table 42 Number of Friends who Carried a Gun in the Past Year (12 months)

	0 friends	1 friend	2 friends	3 friends	4 or more friends
How many friends you feel closest to have carried a gun (not including use of a gun for hunting or sport)?	88.4%	5.0%	2.3%	1.1%	3.2%

Weapon Use by Region.

Regional differences in weapon-related perceptions and behaviors were striking. Youth in the Eastern region were more likely than youth in other regions to believe that obtaining a gun would be easy and that the police would catch a youth carrying a gun. Police enforcement was reported to be lowest in the Central region, while ease of obtaining a gun was in the Southwest region. The Northwest had the highest percentage of friends carrying guns.

Table 43 Availability / Peer Use of Guns by Region

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
If a kid was found carrying a gun in your neighborhood, or in the area around where you live, would he or she be caught by police?	53.8%	40.4%	58.5%	49.5%	47.1%
If you wanted to get a gun, how easy would it be for you to get one?	65.9%	56.7%	72.6%	40.4%	52.1%
How many friends you feel closest to have carried a gun (not including use of a gun for hunting or sport)?	13.2%	9.8%	12.7%	9.4%	10.0%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Weapon Use by Gender.

More females than males reported obtaining a gun would be at least “sort of hard”. Police enforcement of weapon carrying did not differ between males and females.

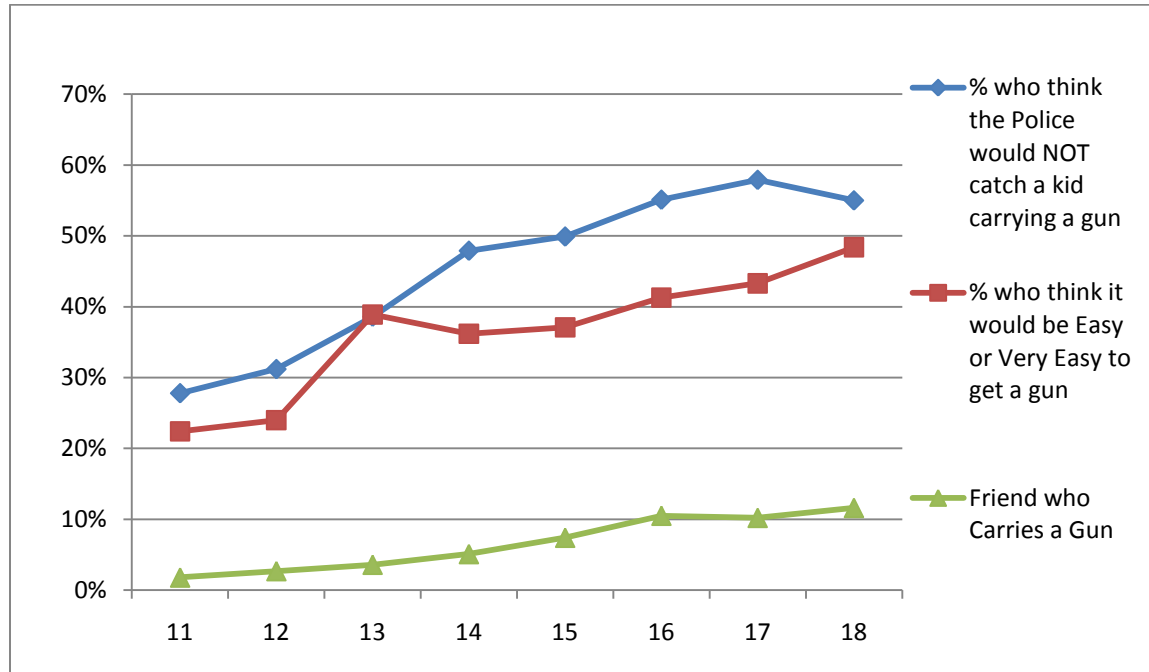
Table 44 Availability / Peer Use of Guns by Gender

	Male	Female
If a kid was found carrying a gun in your neighborhood, or in the area around where you live, would he or she be caught by police?	53.1%	53.7%
If you wanted to get a gun, how easy would it be for you to get one?	59.0%	69.5%
How many friends you feel closest to have carried a gun (not including use of a gun for hunting or sport)?	13.3%	10.0%

Weapon Use by Age.

The percentage of youth reporting that it would be easy to get a gun, that police would not catch a youth carrying a gun and that they had a friend who carried a gun increased with age.

Figure 25 Weapon Attitudes and Peer Usage



CHAPTER 4 – MENTAL HEALTH

Depression

For the first years since the initiation of the Missouri Student Survey, youth were asked six questions related to depression².

The majority of youth surveyed reported at least sometimes feeling sad, being in a bad mood, sleeping more or less than usual and having difficulty focusing on school work.

Table 45 Extent of Depressive Symptoms in the Past Month (30 days)

	Never	Not very often	Sometimes	Often	Always
Were you sad?	19.7%	30.3%	31.1%	14.8%	4.1%
Were you grouchy or irritable, or in a bad mood?	9.0%	22.6%	43.5%	20.3%	4.6%
Did you feel hopeless about the future?	44.4%	24.5%	19.2%	7.9%	4.0%
Did you feel like not eating or eating more than usual?	37.5%	20.8%	23.6%	12.0%	6.1%
Did you sleep a lot more or a lot less than usual?	23.4%	22.3%	28.6%	16.8%	8.8%
Did you have difficulty focusing on your school work?	19.0%	24.5%	31.6%	15.6%	9.2%

² Orpinas P. Skills training and social influences for violence prevention in middle schools: a curriculum evaluation. Doctoral Dissertation. Houston, TX: University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, 1993. (Unpublished)

Depression by Region.

There were minor differences in depressive symptoms across regions.

Table 46 Percentage of Youth with Depressive Symptoms by Region
(Often & Always combined percentages)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Were you sad?	18.7%	18.5%	18.0%	19.9%	21.3%
Were you grouchy or irritable, or in a bad mood?	24.4%	25.2%	24.1%	24.9%	27.5%
Did you feel hopeless about the future?	11.7%	12.7%	11.1%	12.7%	13.0%
Did you feel like not eating or eating more than usual?	17.5%	18.1%	17.5%	18.8%	20.3%
Did you sleep a lot more or a lot less than usual?	25.4%	23.9%	26.0%	26.0%	26.9%
Did you have difficulty focusing on your school work?	23.5%	25.4%	25.4%	24.5%	25.8%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Depression Symptoms by Gender.

Females consistently reported a higher percentage of depressive symptoms than males.

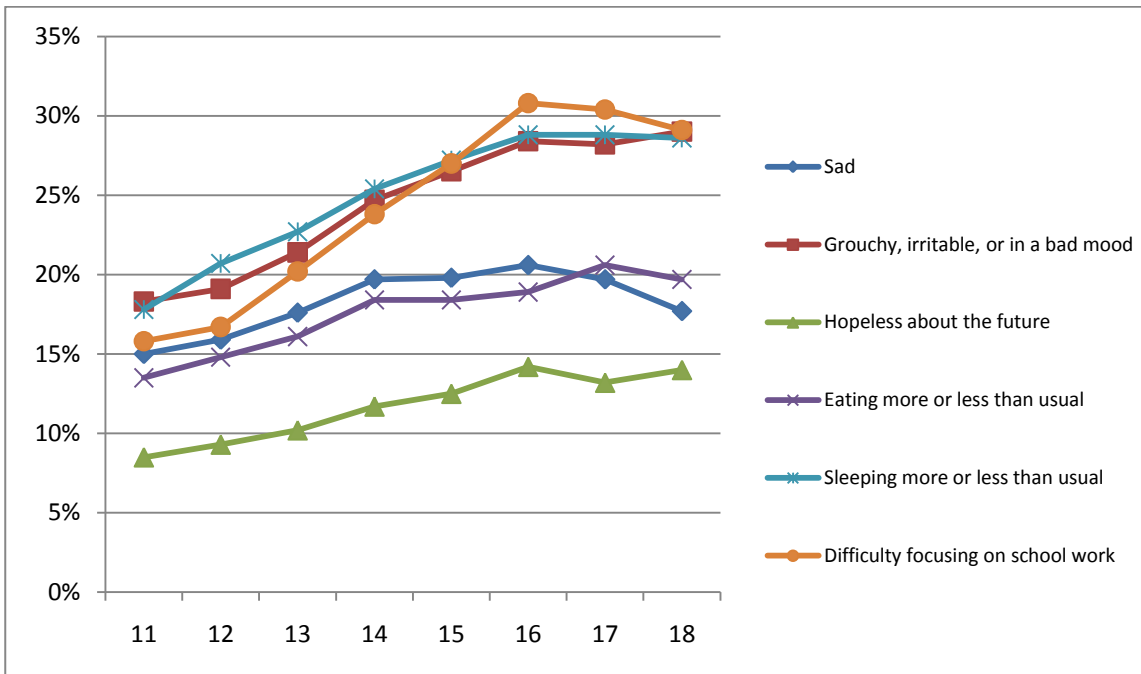
Table 47 Percentage of Youth with Depressive Symptoms by Gender
(Often & Always combined percentages)

	Male	Female
Were you sad?	11.5%	25.8%
Were you grouchy or irritable, or in a bad mood?	19.2%	30.1%
Did you feel hopeless about the future?	10.2%	13.5%
Did you feel like not eating or eating more than usual?	12.6%	23.3%
Did you sleep a lot more or a lot less than usual?	20.3%	30.6%
Did you have difficulty focusing on your school work?	23.2%	26.4%

Depression Symptoms by Age.

Most depressive symptoms peaked around age 16 and then leveled off or decreased. Difficulty focusing on school work changed more dramatically than other depressive symptoms.

Figure 26 Percentage of Youth with Depressive Symptoms in the Past Month (30 days) by Age



Suicidal Ideation & Attempts

A total of 12.6 % of youth surveyed reported that they considered suicide in the last year, 9.3% made a plan to commit suicide, and 2.1% of all youth had attempts that resulted in injury (25.9% of those who attempted were injured). Of those who attempted, the largest percentage did so once.

Table 48 Number of Suicide Attempts in the Past Year (12 months)

	0 times	1 time	2 or 3 times	4 or 5 times	6 or more times
How many times did you actually attempt suicide?	94.5%	2.9%	1.5%	0.4%	0.7%

Suicidal Ideation by Region.

Similar to the data on depression, there were minor regional differences in suicidal ideation.

Table 49 Percentage of Youth with Suicidal Ideation & Attempts by Region
(Yes responses, and 1 or more times; Past Year)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Considered	11.4%	12.1%	11.5%	11.7%	12.6%
Planned	8.3%	8.0%	8.3%	8.7%	9.3%
Attempted	5.6%	5.1%	5.5%	5.5%	5.9%
Attempt resulted in an injury requiring medical attention	2.1%	1.9%	2.0%	2.3%	2.2%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

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³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Suicidal Ideation by Gender.

Suicidal ideation was higher among females than males.

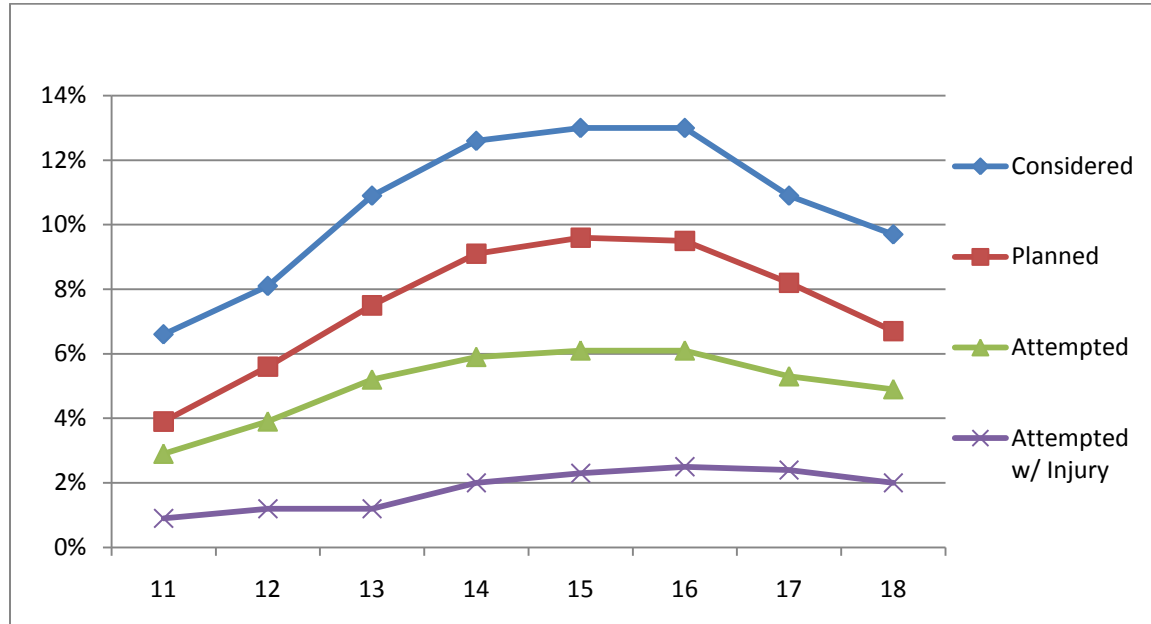
Table 50 Percentage of Youth with Suicidal Ideation & Attempts by Gender
(Yes responses, and 1 or more times; Past Year)

	Male	Female
Considered	8.7%	14.6%
Planned	6.7%	10.1%
Attempted	4.1%	6.9%
Attempt resulted in an injury requiring medical attention	1.7%	2.4%

Suicidal Ideation by Age.

The percentage of youth who attempted suicide peaked at ages 15-16 and then started to decrease. This pattern was repeated for considering, planning and attempting with injury.

Figure 27 Percentage of Youth who Attempted Suicide in the Past Year (12 months) by Age



CHAPTER 5 – EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

School Performance

Most youth surveyed reported they were making at least passing grades.

Table 51 Average Grades Last School Year

	Mostly F's	Mostly D's	Mostly C's	Mostly B's	Mostly A's
What were your average grades?	1.3%	3.7%	17.6%	34.8%	42.6%

Over a quarter of the youth surveyed reported skipping at least one day of school in the past month. However, of those students who did skip school, the majority reported skipping only 1 or 2 days.

Table 52 Number of Days Youth Skipped or Cut School in the Past Month (30 days)

	0 days	1 or 2 days	3 to 5 days	6 to 9 days	10 or more days
How many whole days have you missed school because you skipped or cut?	72.5%	18.4%	6.1%	1.6%	1.3%

Close to 30% of the youth surveyed reported that they had been sent to the office for disciplinary reasons at least once in the past 3 months. Almost a quarter reported in school suspension or detention and 8.8% reported that they had at least one out of school suspension.

Table 53 Number of Times Youth Received Discipline at School in the Past 3 Months

	Never	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 or more
Sent to the office for disciplinary reasons	71.8%	17.3%	5.3%	2.2%	1.4%	0.6%	0.2%	1.2%
In-school suspension or detention	74.3%	16.1%	4.9%	2.0%	1.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.8%
Out-of-school suspension	91.2%	5.6%	1.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%

School Performance by Region.

There was little difference across regions in reported school performance.

Table 54 School Performance by Region

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Average grades of mostly D's or F's last school year	4.9%	5.2%	4.6%	5.4%	5.3%
Skipped school at least 1 time in the past month	27.5%	26.5%	27.1%	27.2%	30.6%
Sent to the office for disciplinary reasons in the past 3 months	27.0%	27.6%	27.4%	28.5%	33.9%
In-school suspension or detention in the past 3 months	24.4%	23.9%	26.6%	24.6%	30.0%
Out-of-school suspension in the past 3 months	9.5%	7.2%	10.2%	7.1%	7.6%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

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⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

School Performance by Gender.

With the exception of skipping school, females had fewer discipline issues than males. Females also reported better grades than males.

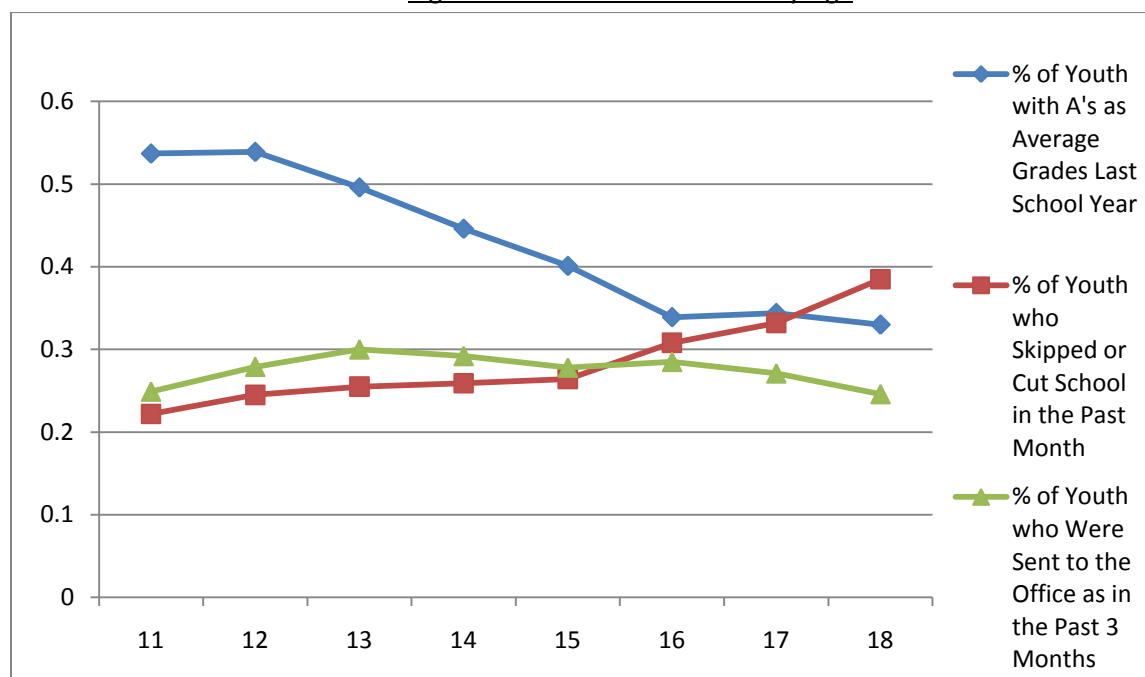
Table 55 School Performance by Gender

	Male	Female
Average grades of mostly D's or F's last school year	6.5%	3.5%
Skipped school at least 1 time in the past month	27.0%	28.1%
Sent to the office for disciplinary reasons in the past 3 months	34.0%	22.8%
In-school suspension or detention in the past 3 months	30.8%	21.0%
Out-of-school suspension in the past 3 months	11.3%	6.5%

School Performance by Age.

The percentage of students reporting an A grade point average decreased from 12 to 16 while the percentage of youth who reported skipping generally increased with age. The percentage of youth who were sent to the office for discipline problems remained around 25-30% regardless of age.

Figure 28 School Performance by Age



School Safety

Most of the students surveyed reported feeling safe both at school and going to and from school.

Table 56 Extent of Youths' Feelings of Safety at School and Going to or from School

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel safe at school.	4.2%	11.8%	63.2%	20.8%
I feel safe going to or from school.	3.2%	8.7%	61.2%	27.0%

Only 4.5% of students report skipping school because they felt unsafe.

Table 57 Number of Days Youths Skipped School because they Felt Unsafe in the Past Month (30 days)

	0 days	1 day	2or 3 days	4 or 5 days	6 or more days
Didn't go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or going to or from school.	95.5%	2.4%	1.1%	0.3%	0.7%

School Safety by Region.

There was little difference in perceived safety of youth across regions.

Table 58 Percentage of Youth who felt Unsafe by Region

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
Felt unsafe at school	15.5%	15.2%	16.5%	15.7%	17.2%
Felt unsafe going to or from school	12.2%	10.7%	12.4%	11.2%	11.7%
Didn't go to school because felt unsafe	4.5%	4.2%	4.6%	4.2%	4.6%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

School Safety by Gender.

Males reported feeling slightly less safe at school than females. Males and females felt equally safe going to and from school. Very few males or females skipped school because they did not feel safe.

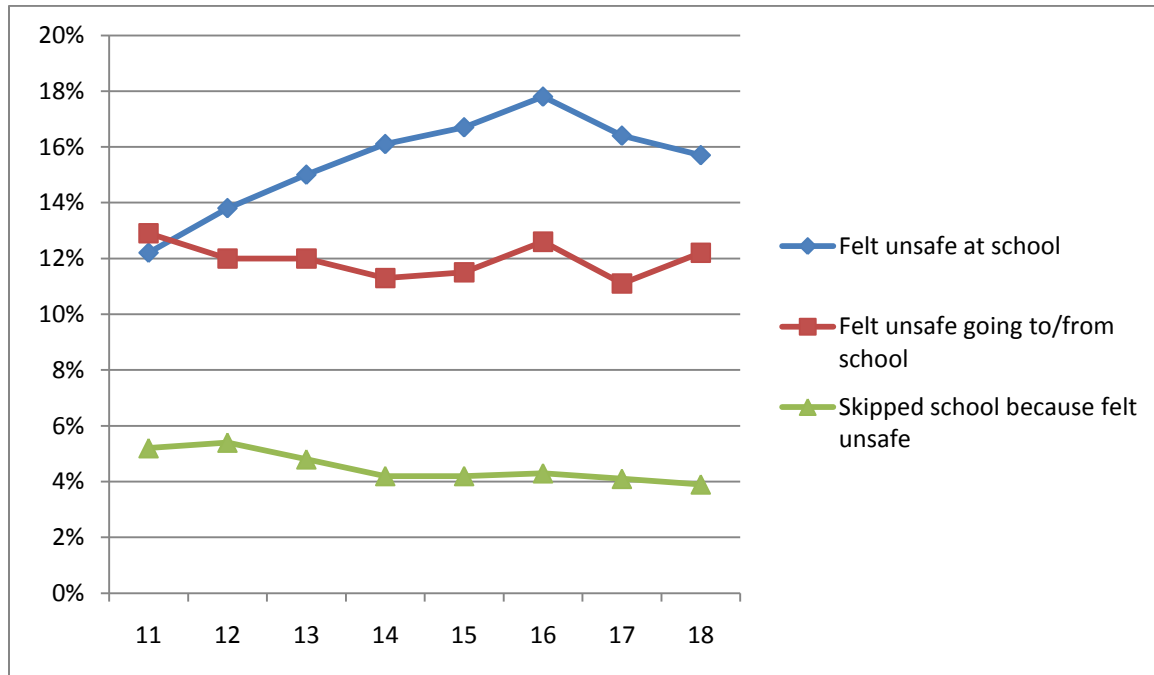
Table 59 Percentage of Youth who felt Unsafe by Gender

	Male	Female
Felt unsafe at school	17.3%	14.8%
Felt unsafe going to or from school	11.4%	12.2%
Didn't go to school because felt unsafe	4.1%	4.9%

School Safety by Age.

Youth reports of feeling unsafe at school peaked around age 16 and then decreased. The other two safety measures remained relatively stable over the reported age range.

Figure 29 Percentage of Youth who Felt Unsafe at School, Going to or from School, and Skipped School because they Felt Unsafe in the Past Month (30 days) by Age



Perceptions & Attitudes toward School

Youth were asked about the degree to which they felt that school offered them opportunities for involvement and the degree to which teachers supported them in their efforts to succeed. Youth were most likely to report that there were many school activities in which they could become involved. The large majority also reported that students of different racial/ethnic backgrounds were treated fairly. They were least likely to report that their teachers let their parents know if they had done something well in school.

Table 60 Perceptions and Attitudes toward School by Youth

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
In my school, students have lots of chances to help decide things like class activities and rules.	11.9%	32.5%	46.8%	8.8%
Teachers ask me to work on classroom projects.	2.4%	12.8%	68.1%	16.7%
My teacher(s) notice(s) when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.	5.8%	23.0%	55.5%	15.6%
There are a lot of chances at school for me to get involved in sports, clubs, and other school activities outside of class.	2.9%	8.1%	48.0%	41.0%
There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk with a teacher one-on-one.	4.3%	20.0%	55.9%	19.8%
The school lets my parents know when I have done something well.	16.4%	42.1%	34.0%	7.5%
My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.	9.3%	34.6%	47.1%	9.0%
I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.	2.3%	10.4%	66.3%	20.9%
In my school, rules are enforced fairly.	10.6%	24.4%	52.7%	12.2%
In my school, students of all races and ethnic groups are treated equally.	6.9%	16.2%	50.0%	26.8%

Perceptions & Attitudes toward School by Region.

Regional differences in school perceptions and attitudes were minor.

Table 61 Perceptions and Attitudes toward School by Region
(Agree & Strongly Agree combined percentages)

	Northwest ¹	Central ²	Eastern ³	Southwest ⁴	Southeast ⁵
In my school, students have lots of chances to help decide things like class activities and rules.	55.6%	57.7%	55.6%	55.6%	52.9%
Teachers ask me to work on classroom projects.	85.4%	85.9%	84.7%	84.5%	83.0%
My teacher(s) notice(s) when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.	70.8%	72.2%	71.9%	69.4%	70.6%
There are a lot of chances at school for me to get involved in sports, clubs, and other school activities outside of class.	87.9%	90.7%	89.1%	89.5%	88.9%
There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk with a teacher one-on-one.	75.9%	78.7%	75.4%	74.4%	74.1%
The school lets my parents know when I have done something well.	41.9%	42.1%	42.2%	39.6%	40.4%
My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.	55.6%	56.0%	57.8%	55.0%	54.0%
I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.	87.4%	87.9%	88.3%	85.6%	84.9%
In my school, rules are enforced fairly.	65.8%	65.1%	65.6%	64.7%	61.5%
In my school, students of all races and ethnic groups are treated equally.	78.2%	74.8%	76.0%	79.7%	75.5%

¹ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Northwest region, n = 33,020

² Missouri Student Survey (2010), Central region, n = 18,492

³ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Eastern region, n = 43,610

⁴ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southwest region, n = 20,039

⁵ Missouri Student Survey (2010), Southeast region, n = 14,739

Perceptions & Attitudes toward School by Gender.

There were minimal differences in males and females attitudes towards school.

Table 62 Perceptions and Attitudes toward School by Gender
(Agree & Strongly Agree combined percentages)

	Male	Female
In my school, students have lots of chances to help decide things like class activities and rules.	55.3%	55.8%
Teachers ask me to work on classroom projects.	84.4%	85.1%
My teacher(s) notice(s) when I am doing a good job and let me know about it.	70.8%	71.3%
There are a lot of chances at school for me to get involved in sports, clubs, and other school activities outside of class.	89.2%	89.0%
There are lots of chances for students in my school to talk with a teacher one-on-one.	77.2%	74.3%
The school lets my parents know when I have done something well.	43.6%	39.4%
My teachers praise me when I work hard in school.	55.8%	56.4%
I have lots of chances to be part of class discussions or activities.	85.7%	88.7%
In my school, rules are enforced fairly.	65.2%	64.8%
In my school, students of all races and ethnic groups are treated equally.	76.7%	77.3%

Perceptions & Attitudes toward School by Age.

Generally speaking, perceptions and attitudes toward school were similar across age groups. “Parents say I’ve done well” consistently has the lowest percentage of youth agreeing with it.

Figure 30 Percentage of Youth with Positive Perceptions of and Attitudes toward School by Age

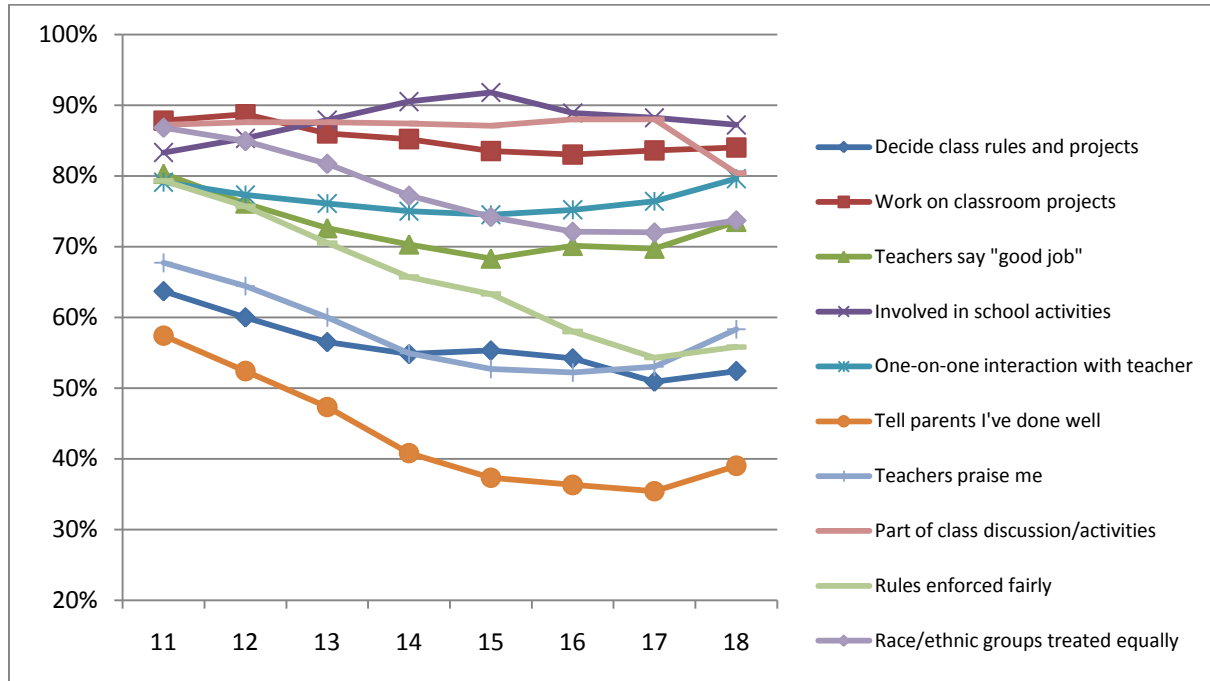


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